



AMERICAN LIVING: A MEMORABLE PIZZA IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Page 6



UNBOXING VIDEOS ONLINE CHRONICLE THE SUPER REVEAL

Page 32

Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Wednesday, November 26, 2014



THIN LINE

Ferguson Prepares For More Violent Protests

National Guard troops stand in front of the Police Department in Ferguson, Mo., Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2014. Overnight protests following a grand jury's decision not to indict police officer Darren Wilson in the killing of Michael Brown were far more destructive than any of those that followed Brown's Aug. 9 death, with more than a dozen businesses badly damaged or destroyed.

(AP Photo/Charlie Riedel)

Associated Press

FERGUSON, Missouri (AP) — Missouri's governor ordered

hundreds more National Guardsmen into a St. Louis suburb Tuesday after a

night of protests and rioting over a grand jury decision's not to indict a white police

officer in the killing of an unarmed black 18-year-old, a case that inflamed racial

tensions in the U.S.

Continued on page 3



**For The Distribution Of All
Your Holiday Season Flyers
Call Us At 582-7800**

Even with new deadline;

Iran nuclear talks still face steep obstacles

GEORGE JAHN
Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — The United States and Iran say a new deadline in nuclear talks could allow them to finally reach a deal. But Tehran's apparent reluctance to compromise may soon leave U.S. negotiators running out of ideas on how to

stemmed from the U.S. and its allies revising positions closer to the minimum of what they may be able to accept. Iran's demands, in contrast, have changed less — and the country may be digging in as the next round approaches. While Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader,

to walk away from them rather than give up too much.

But while the U.S. administration may opt for more wiggle room on the size and capacity of Iran's nuclear program, that may not be the case for powerful sceptics of too much U.S. compromise.

announcement, Sen. Mark Kirk, an Illinois Republican whose work with Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez of New Jersey on oil sanctions helped drive Iran to the negotiating table, pledged to come forward with a new bipartisan sanctions package.

Menendez suggested similar action, saying he'd work "to ensure that Iran comprehends that we will not ever permit it to become a threshold nuclear state."

Key to an agreement for the U.S. is capping Iran's uranium enrichment program.

Iran denies any interest in atomic arms and says it needs to enrich to make reactor fuel and for other peaceful uses. But the West fears that Tehran could ramp up the program and enrich to levels used for the fissile core of nuclear weapons.

Iran now has nearly 10,000 centrifuges enriching uranium. Washington came to the negotiating table 10 months ago demanding that Tehran pare down that number to less than 2,000 in attempts to increase the time Iran would need to make enough weapons-grade uranium from a few months to a year or more. The U.S. is now ready to accept just over 4,000, the diplomats said on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to discuss the confidential talks. □



From left: US Secretary of State John Kerry, former EU Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif meet for talks on the sidelines of nuclear talks with Iran aimed at settling a dispute over Iran's nuclear program at the Palais Coburg in Vienna. (AP Photo/Joe Klamar, Pool)

reduce Iran's capacity to make nuclear arms. Western diplomats familiar with the talks said Tuesday they have agreed on little more than to keep talking until June 30, after failing to substantially narrow differences by Monday's deadline in Vienna.

Based on information from the diplomats, progress made so far has mostly

has backed the nuclear negotiations, he signaled on Tuesday that his country would stand firm, saying Washington and its European allies will be unable "to bring the Islamic Republic to its knees."

Washington's mantra has long been "no deal is better than a bad deal," and extending the talks has put off a decision on whether

Members of the new Republican-controlled U.S. Congress to be sworn in early next year have threatened to impose additional sanctions on Iran and may well have enough votes to overturn an expected veto by President Barack Obama. That would almost surely push Tehran away from the table.

Shortly after the extension

Iran Ayatollah okays further nuclear talks

NASSER KARIMI
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's supreme leader on Tuesday gave his indirect approval for a continuation of talks over its disputed nuclear program, criticizing world powers who many frustrated Iranians believe could have worked harder to reach a deal with the country. The remarks were the first by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has final say on all state matters, since Iran and the major powers agreed Monday to decide by March 1 about what agreements must be reached on what schedule. A final deal is meant to follow four months later.

"On the nuclear issue, the United States and European colonialist countries gathered and applied their entire efforts to bring the Islamic Republic to its knees but they could not and they will not," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said, according to his website. His reference to the future signals indirect approval of the talks.

Mojtaba Fathi, a Tehran-based analyst, believed the extension of the talks means that current international sanctions "will not increase against Iran and a reduction of the sanctions is possible while it has its own nuclear program on the ground. This has added to hopes for solving the case."

Vice chairman of parliament, Mohammad Hassan Aboutorabifard, said the U.S. is not trustworthy since Washington "sacrifices" its national interests for Israel, but he still voiced support for further nuclear talks.

On Tehran's streets, many said they had expected a deal on Monday, but that they remain patient.

"They should reach a deal," taxi driver Mohammad Sayari said. "I was ready to take to the streets alongside other people to celebrate the announcement of a deal, which could mean better opportunities for me to earn more for my family." □

UN: Islamic State got up to \$45M in ransoms

EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Islamic State group which controls a large swath of Syria and Iraq has received between \$35 million and \$45 million in ransom payments in the past year, a U.N. expert monitoring sanctions against al-Qaida said Monday. Yotsna Lalji told a meeting of the U.N. Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee that an estimated \$120 million in ran-

som was paid to terrorist groups between 2004 and 2012.

Kidnapping for ransom "continues to grow," she said, as demonstrated by the money the extremist group calling itself the Islamic State has collected, up to \$45 million in just the past year.

She said in recent years that al-Qaida and its affiliates have made kidnapping "the core al-Qaida tactic for generating revenue." She pointed to an

October 2012 recording in which al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahri incites militants worldwide to kidnap Westerners.

Lalji said al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, which operates from Yemen, received \$20 million in ransom between 2011 and 2013, and al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, which operates in North Africa, received \$75 million over the past four years.

She said the al-Qaida-linked extremist groups

Boko Haram in Nigeria and al-Shabab in Somalia also "have collected millions of dollars over the past years," and the Abu Sayyaf militant group in the Philippines has received about \$1.5 million in ransom.

According to the al-Qaida sanctions committee, although the media focuses on international hostages who have generated the largest ransom payments, the vast majority of victims are nationals kidnapped within their own country. □



END OF THE YEAR Specials



\$15
COMBOS
+15% service charge and 1.5% tip

Mini Kickin' shrimp, Half Rack of The Original Baby Back Ribs and ice cream

Soup of the day, Roma Burger and ice cream

Soup of the day, Half Rack of The Original Baby Back Ribs & 1/4 BBQ Chicken and ice cream

J.E. Iraesquin Blvd. #230 | Across from the Holiday Inn Resort

For reservations call (297) 586-7427 or (297) 586-0800

Ferguson prepares for more violent protests

Continued from Front

Attorneys for the family of the slain young man, Michael Brown, criticized the grand jury's decision as rigged but appealed for peace.

The decision announced Monday night means Officer Darren Wilson will not face any state criminal charges in the Aug. 9 shooting, which reignited debates over relations between police and minority communities, even in cities far from Ferguson, the St. Louis suburb where Brown was killed.

Several protests broke out for a second day in the St. Louis area and other cities. About 300 people marched from a park to the St. Louis courthouse, chanting "You didn't indict. We shall fight." Police used pepper spray and arrested several demonstrators who blocked major intersections in St. Louis.

In Ferguson, 12 commercial buildings were burned down and other businesses were looted during overnight protests, Assistant Fire Chief Steve Fair said.

Gov. Jay Nixon said more than 2,200 National Guardsmen — reserve troops of the U.S. military — will be in place in the region near Ferguson on Tuesday night in the event of more violence. He said hundreds more will be deployed to Ferguson.

President Barack Obama deplored the destructive acts, saying they are criminal and those responsible should be prosecuted. But America's first black president said he understands that many people are upset by the grand jury decision. Their frustration, he said, is rooted in a sense that laws are not always

being enforced "uniformly and fairly" in minority communities.

There were 61 arrests in Ferguson overnight and 21 in St. Louis. At least 18 people were injured, including someone who was shot and was recovering at a hospital. Attorneys for Brown's family stressed that those setting fires and engaging in violence were not on Brown's side.

But they criticized everything about the grand jury process from the types of evidence St. Louis County Prosecutor Bob McCulloch presented to the jury to the way it was presented and the timing of the grand jury's decision. Attorney Anthony Gray suggested McCulloch presented some testimony, including from witnesses who did not see the shooting, to discredit the process.

The attorneys also said they hope that a federal civil rights investigation will result in charges against Wilson.

The Justice Department is conducting a separate investigation into possible civil rights violations, but investigators would need to satisfy a rigorous standard of proof in order to mount a prosecution. The department also has launched a broad probe into the Ferguson Police Department, looking for patterns of discrimination.

Wilson's lawyers issued a statement praising the grand jury's decision and saying the officer, who has remained out of the public eye since the shooting, is grateful to his supporters.

"Law enforcement personnel must frequently make split-second and difficult decisions," the lawyers wrote. "Officer Wilson followed his training and followed the law." □



Michael Brown Sr., center, listens alongside Rev. Al Sharpton, right, as Brown family attorney Anthony Gray, left, speaks during a news conference at Greater St. Mark Church Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2014, in St. Louis County, Mo. Rioting broke out Monday after a grand jury decided not to indict a white Ferguson police officer in the shooting death of the unarmed, black 18-year-old Michael Brown.

(AP Photo/Jeff Roberson)

Save a turkey... Eat steak!



A free glass of Argentine wine with your Thanksgiving Steak Dinner at El Gaucho Restaurant



Wilhelminastraat 80
Tel. 582-3677



Rain, snow could thwart Thanksgiving holiday travels

FRANK ELTMAN
Associated Press

MINEOLA, New York (AP)

— Travelers scrambled to change their plans and beat a storm expected to bring snow, slush and rain to the crowded Washington-to-Boston corridor Wednesday on one of the busiest, most stressful days of the year, the harvest holiday known as Thanksgiving. Forecasters said major Northeast cities will probably see moderate to heavy rain most of the day, though New York and other places were also gearing up for several inches (centimeters) of snow.

Higher elevations west of the Interstate-95 highway could see up to a foot (30 centimeters) of snow before the storm ex-

its Wednesday night, meteorologist Andrew Orrison said. Major airlines dropped their ticket-change fees for people flying in and out of the Northeast, allowing passengers to try to sneak on an earlier flight, though that appeared to be a challenging proposition, since most planes were filled. By midafternoon Tuesday, just 14 flights within the U.S. were canceled for Wednesday, according to tracking service FlightAware. That's well below the norm for even a sunny day. United said it was planning to cancel 100 flights Wednesday in and out of Newark Liberty Airport in New Jersey — a small fraction of the traffic there. Delta planned to scrub 57 flights. Port Authority of



Travelers wait in lines to check in at LaGuardia Airport in New York, Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2014. A nor'easter was expected to develop along the East Coast just as millions of travelers head to their Thanksgiving destinations, bringing mostly rain close to the coast, but heavier snow further inland. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

New York and New Jersey, which operates Kennedy,

LaGuardia and Newark Liberty airports, said it was lining up extra staff and snow removal equipment in the event of a heavy snowfall. □

The Blue Lobster

INTERNATIONAL CUISINE & LOBSTER HOUSE

3 Year Anniversary

Come celebrate with us

3 Course Dinner
(Lobster Tail Included)

Plus a FREE Bottle of Wine per Table

Promotion valid on Monday, Nov. 24 th
Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th.
11 dishes, 6 appetizers and 4 desserts to
choose from, this promotion not to be used
with any other promotions or discounts.

Palm Beach 164A
Open 11AM till 10PM
Make your reservation direct at:

Phone: 586-3843

Live Entertainment, lots of fun and professional service



\$42
P.P.

Buffalo avoids snowmelt chaos

BUFFALO, New York (AP)

— A wild nine-day stretch of weather that saw epic snow followed by springlike temperatures, high winds and flood fears came to a close Tuesday in Buffalo and the battered western New York state area. The storms were blamed for at least a dozen deaths in the region on Lake Erie, which received as much snow in a few days as it normally does in an entire year. There were isolated reports of melting snow flooding basements and pooling in

yards and roads Tuesday, but the region dodged the widespread flooding that residents had feared when temperatures climbed well above freezing following as much as 7.5 feet (2.3 meters) of snow last week. A single flood warning for suburban Williamsville was in effect through Wednesday morning, and the National Weather Service said counties south of Buffalo could see some freezing rain by then. But several other flood watches and warnings were lifted. □

VW policy for US plant sets off labor scramble



United Auto Workers Local 42 President Mike Cantrell, left, speaks to fellow Volkswagen employees at the union's office in Chattanooga, Tenn. Cantrell said he hopes to parlay a new labor policy at the Volkswagen plant into the UAW gaining exclusive bargaining rights for factory workers.

(AP Photo/Erik Schelzig)

ERIK SCHELZIG
Associated Press

CHATTANOOGA, Tennessee (AP) — A new labor policy at Volkswagen's Tennessee factory is encouraging both supporters and opponents of a major labor union to unionize its first foreign auto plant in the U.S. South.

The new policy, known as "Community Organization Engagement," establishes formal rules for labor groups at the plant for the first time. What the effects will be is still up for debate. To some, the policy may open the door to the United Auto Workers eventually representing all workers in contract negotiations. To others, it may undercut the union by giving an opposing group an official voice at the plant.

The outcome is being closely watched in the U.S. and abroad. Other German and Asian automakers in the South are keenly monitoring developments, as are anti-union Republicans.

And the company, with perhaps the most to say, isn't saying much at all.

"Let's let this play out and see how it goes," said Volkswagen Chattanooga spokesman Scott Wilson.

The policy works like this: Groups that can sign up at least 15 percent of workers get access to plant meeting space and regular meetings with manage-

ment. Groups that sign up to 30 percent or 45 percent of employees get more access.

While the guidelines explicitly steer clear of questions of collective bargaining, the UAW sees it as an opportunity to begin erasing its narrow defeat in a union vote at the plant in February. "It's just one step toward recognition," UAW Local 42 President Mike Cantrell said in an interview in the union's bustling Chattanooga office.

The cramped, one-room office about 5 miles (8 kilometers) from the Volkswagen plant was overflowing with caps, T-shirts and other organizing materials. The UAW shares the space with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. A rival group called the American Council of Employees recently set up shop nearby in a spacious two-story building that previously housed a youth church group. There are sofas, a pool table and a separate meeting room with a stage.

Interim President Sean Moss said the group is recruiting workers to present an alternate voice for hourly and salaried employees. He said its core membership is made up of the same workers who spearheaded the opposition to the UAW in February.

"To me it does not make any sense to line up with

the people who are going down, and going down fast," said Moss, who declined to elaborate on how his group is funded.

The internal politics of the Volkswagen board, half of which is made up of worker representatives, have played heavily the union issues at the plant.

Following the labor policy, the UAW's German counterpart, IG Metall, called on Volkswagen to "show its true colors" and officially recognize the UAW once it has signed up a majority of workers. Detlef Wetzel, the German union's president, also demanded that Volkswagen refuse to deal with what he called "yellow unions" — organizations more focused on representing company interests

than those of the workers. Moss said he wasn't worried by the alliance between the UAW and IG Metall.

"IG Metall and the UAW said they want people to organize and to stand up and have a voice, but only if it's under them," he said. Volkswagen management has been under heavy pressure from union representatives on its board because the U.S. plant stands alone among the automaker's worldwide facilities without formal labor representation.

The same law requiring labor representation on the Volkswagen board also applies to other German automakers with factories in the South, like BMW and Mercedes parent Daimler.

□

CELEBRATE YOUR CHRISTMAS DINNER AT DRIFTWOOD!

SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL OUR VALUED GUESTS



Our holiday special this year offers a 3-course Dinner for \$25.95 p.p.

+ 1.5%, No Service Charge!

Appetizer

- Oyster Soup • Onion Soup
- Fish Croquet • Salad
- Coconut Shrimp

Entrée

- Fresh Catch of the Day • Jumbo Shrimp
- Filet Mignon* • Keshi Yena

Dessert

- Tres Leche • Quesillo
- Ice Cream • Coffee / Tea

* a \$2 surcharge will be added to the bill for the Filet Mignon option.
This special cannot be used with any other promotions, vouchers or certificates.



For reservations call: 583-2515

Open daily from 5:00pm - 10:30pm (closed on Sundays)
e-mail: driftwood@setarnet.aw • Klipstraat 12, Downtown.

ARUBA OSTRICH FARM



- Get up close and personal with the largest bird in the world.
- Family fun, interactive and educational.
- Open from 9'am - 4'pm

20% OFF
TOUR PRICE

No reservations needed for SMALL GROUPS



Tel: 585-9630

JOLLY PIRATES

\$10 Off

SAIL, SNORKEL, SWIM & SWING
DAILY 9am - 1pm \$60 pp
 Visit 3 Great sites with BBQ,
 Open Bar, Gear & Ropeswing!

AFTERNOON CRUISE
DAILY 2pm - 5pm \$45 pp
 Our shorter snorkel cruise, with
 Open Bar, Gear & Ropeswing!

DAILY SUNSET SAIL
DAILY 5:30pm - 7:30pm \$32 pp
 Enjoy spectacular sunset. Open
 Bar & Ropeswing included

Tickets available at Jolly Pirates Shop at MooMba Beach. Boarding at MooMba Beach- by the high rise hotels between Holiday Inn and Marriott Resorts. Offer not valid in combination with other discount offers. Valid for direct telephone reservations ONLY - Present coupon at boarding

586 8107/592 7858

Save \$10 per couple/per coupon for morning cruise
Save \$5 per couple/ per coupon for afternoon cruise

American Living:

A memorable pizza made in Nashua New Hampshire



This photo shows the Riverwalk Cafe & Coffee House in Nashua, N.H. The intimate coffee shop offers comfortable seating, organic coffee roasted onsite and baked goods, plus live music and craft brews at the bar. (AP Photo/J.M. Hirsch)

J.M. HIRSCH
AP Food Editor

NASHUA, N.H. (AP) — It's one of those haunting food memories I've tried — foolishly — to escape for nearly 25 years. And it's ruined me for any facsimile since. I'm speaking of the pizza joint — for in the days before artisanal, gluten-free crusts and free-range mozzarella, they all were joints — that formed the backbone of my high school years. Sort of dingy with a smattering of so-not ironic arcade games, Espresso Pizza was the only correct answer to teenage boy pizza cravings in this rather run-of-the-mill former mill town on the Massachusetts border. It was for after school. It was for during school (hooky!). But especially, it was for after weekend debate tournaments. (As if that's a

shock... You don't become a food editor for your athletic prowess.) The pizzas were massive, thin-crust New York-style marriages of tangy-sweet sauce and just the right ratio of cheese. There was something addictive about their pizza, and I packed the extra pounds to prove it. Most wonderfully, Espresso Pizza had a dangerously good pricing scheme — three large cheese pizzas for \$12. And my family's routine was always the same. Wrap up the debate tournament, then swing by for a triple play. One for Mom, one for Dad, one for me. Did I mention the extra pounds? Back in the day, it didn't matter. That was almost a quarter century ago and I haven't been back since. Yet I've never eaten another slice since without comparing it.

by an I-want-to-stroll-there vibe. And Espresso Pizza persists. Not that I knew this. Work brought me through town recently and that's when I noticed. Still there. Same place. Same vibe? Same pizza? I needed to know. The vibe is definitely different. Gone is the gritty feel. Bright lights and sleek seating give it a clean, modern look. Sadly, also gone are the arcade games. Things can't stay the same forever, after all. Including prices. The current deal: three large cheese pizzas for \$30. Still a deal. But the smell was the same, that wonderful warm blend of yeasty rising dough (if you look behind the counter you'll see the cloth-wrapped pillows of crust

(I'd promised to bring my prize home to the family). Standing with the pizza box propped open on the back seat, I grabbed a slice. Tender, yet crisp crust. Tangy sweet sauce. Just right cheese. A quarter-century melted away. Thusly sated, I next headed across the street to investigate something we'd lacked — but wanted desperately — all those years ago: a kick-butt coffee shop. If you go for the pizza, also head to Riverwalk Cafe and Music Bar. This large, yet intimate coffee shop and bar offers sink-into-the-couch comfort, organic coffee roasted onsite, and a viciously tempting array of baked goods. Next time I'm in town I'll budget my time better so



This photo shows a cheese pizza from Espresso Pizza on Main Street in Nashua, N.H. With bright lights, sleek seating and a modern look, the pizza has remained consistently good over nearly a quarter-century and still offers diners a deal: three large cheese pizzas for \$30. (AP Photo/J.M. Hirsch)

Nashua has changed since those days. The then-somewhat desolate Main Street has been transformed with funky shops, decent diners and upscale eateries. The saggy, gray feel of a tired town has been replaced

expanding into deliciousness) and warm tomatoes. I resisted the urge to order as if I was still in high school; just one large cheese would have to suffice. I barely waited until I got it back to the car to dig in

I can linger. They regularly feature a broad swath of live music — local jazz, bluegrass, classical, etc. — and a fine selection of craft brews to wash it all down. So maybe you can go home again. □



Champagne Brunch Cruise

28th Anniversary

Includes continental breakfast, lunch, open bar, mimosas, 3rd lung & snorkeling equipments. Our fleet are custom build Catamarans, with shaded area, sunbathing nets, spacious deck for dancing, 2 restrooms on board, easy embarking from our Pelican Pier. Our professional crew members provide instructions for new snorkelers.

Stops: Catalina Bay, Antilla Ship Wreck & Malmok Bay

Visit us at Casa del Mar, Playa Linda, Holiday Inn Concierge/lobby desk/ beach huts, RIU Hut between Antilla & Palace Hotel on the beach, or at our own Pelican Pier located between the Holiday Inn & Playa Linda Resort.

For reservations call 587-2302 (Mon-Sun) Or book online at: www.pelican-aruba.com

PRESENT THIS AD AND RECEIVE \$10 DISCOUNT PER COUPLE

US Financial Front: American home price gains slow for 10th straight month

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. home prices rose in September at the slowest pace in more than two years, reflecting modest sales gains and a rising number of available homes.

The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city home price index, released Tuesday, increased 4.9 percent in September from 12 months earlier. But that's down from 5.6 percent in August and the smallest gain since October 2012. On a monthly basis, the 20-city index was unchanged, the first flat reading in seven months. The monthly changes aren't adjusted for seasonal factors such as colder weather, which can impact sales. Prices dropped in nine of 20 cities from August.

Home price gains have slowed this year after rapid, double-digit increases in the previous two years. Investors helped drive the strong gains by bidding up prices but have started to cut back on their purchases. Smaller price gains and low mortgage rates could make housing more affordable.

More Americans are also listing their homes for sale, helping keep prices in check. Nationwide, 2.22 million homes were on the market in October, up 5.2 percent from a year earlier. After the roller-coaster of collapsing home prices during the housing bust, followed by big increases in 2012 and 2013, many economists have welcomed the modest gains this year.

"This slowdown is a critical step on the road back to a normal," said Stan Humphries, chief econo-

mist at real estate data provider Zillow. "The market is becoming more balanced between buyers and sellers."

The Case-Shiller index covers roughly half of U.S. homes. The index measures prices compared with those in January 2000 and creates a three-month moving average. The September figures are the latest available.

Eighteen of the 20 cities reported slower price increases over the past 12 months. Only Charlotte, North Carolina, and Dallas reported larger annual gains than in August.

Miami posted the strongest 12-month gain at 10.3 percent, followed by Las Vegas at 9.1 percent. September was the first time that Las Vegas reported a price increase below 10 percent in more than two years. Investors have bid up prices in that city, which saw a large housing bust and many home foreclosures.

Healthy sales in Miami likely contributed to the big price gain. Home sales jumped 21.2 percent in Miami last month, according to Redfin, a real estate brokerage, the strongest increase among the 39 markets it tracks.

The smallest price gains in the Case-Shiller report were in Cleveland, where they rose 0.8 percent in September from a year earlier, and Washington, D.C., where prices increased just 2.1 percent.

Mortgage rates have also slipped in recent weeks, providing another boost to potential homebuyers. The average rate on a 30-year fixed mortgage declined to 3.99 percent last week



Mara Boccolini, a realtor associate with South Beach Estates, shows the master bathroom in a newly renovated waterfront property on the market during a viewing for brokers, in Miami Beach, Fla. Standard & Poor's released its S&P/Case-Shiller index of home prices for September and the third quarter on Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2014.

(AP Photo/Lynne Sladky)

from 4.01 percent the previous week.

Rates have hovered around 4 percent for the past month, down about a half-point from the be-

ginning of the year, even as the Federal Reserve has wound down a bond-buying stimulus campaign.

The Fed's bond purchases were intended to keep in-

terest rates low, leading many economists to forecast that mortgage rates would rise once the purchases ended. But so far, that hasn't happened.

Thanksgiving Menu

on November 27th 2014

Pumpkin Soup
with Cinnamon Crème Fraiche

Slow Roasted Turkey Breast
with Mashed Potatoes, Sage Stuffing, Autumn Vegetables, Turkey Gravy & Cranberry Sauce

Pumpkin Pie
à La Mode

\$32,-
(incl. service charge & tax)

BUCCANEER RESTAURANT

"Best meal of the trip" ★★★★★
"Lobster the way it's supposed to be..." ★★★★★

Walking distance from the Highrise Hotels

Gasparito 11-c Noord, Aruba | Open Mon - Sat: from 5:30 pm to 10:00 pm
For reservations please call tel. (297) 586 6172 www.buccaneeraruba.com

red sail sports *Dinner Sail*

Sail along Aruba's scenic coastline and enjoy the sunset followed by a Caribbean buffet catered by award-winning chefs.

Wednesday from 5:30 to 8:30 pm

Book now! www.redsailaruba.com or by phone: (+297) 586-1603



Review: 'Smash Bros.' makes brutality adorable

LOU KESTEN
Associated Press

Every few years, Nintendo rounds up its most popular characters, like Mario, Donkey Kong and Pikachu, and has them beat the daylights out of each other. It's not exactly blood sport — there are no spine-shattering, "Mortal Kombat"-style fatalities, and everyone walks away smiling. Only Nintendo could make bare-knuckle brawling cute.

"Super Smash Bros. for Wii U" (Nintendo, \$59.99) continues that bizarre balancing act between adorable and brutal. Like most fighting games, it's a snooze to play alone but a delight to play with friends.

The initial 49-character roster includes familiar challengers like Link and Kirby, new fighters like the "Wii Fit" trainer and Little Mac from "Punch-Out," and even a few non-Nintendo ringers like Pac-Man and Sonic the Hedgehog. You can also fight as your Mii avatar, armed with a gun, a sword or just your fists. The core brawling is simple enough that anyone

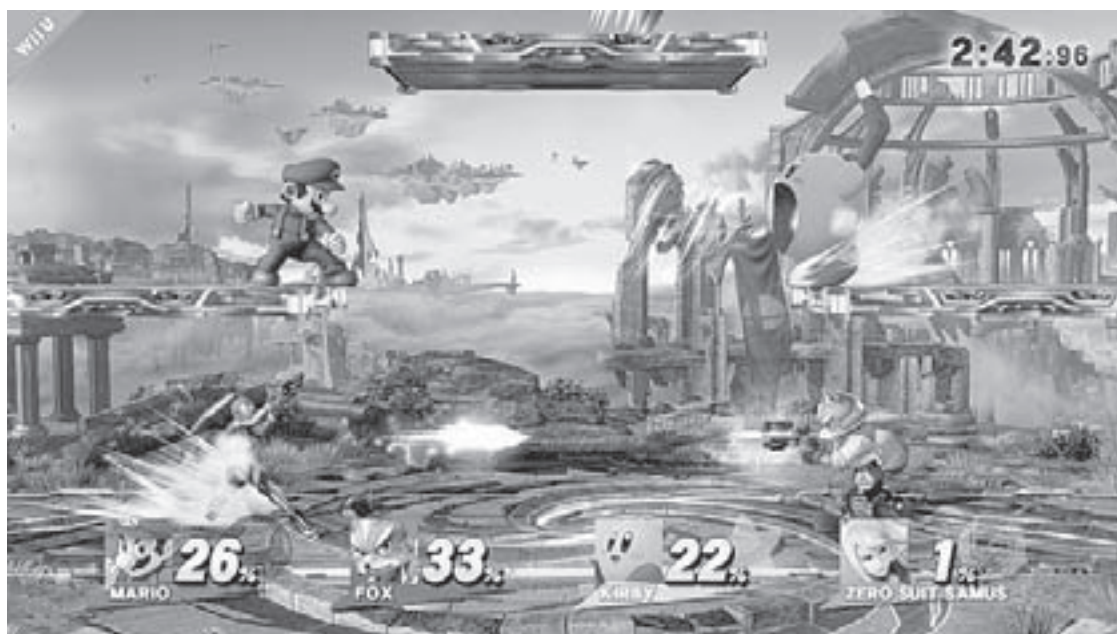
can pick up a controller and join in. One button lets you punch opponents or pick up useful items, like a baseball bat or a healing spell. A second button unleashes special attacks that vary by character: Mario can throw fireballs, Link can shoot arrows and Yoshi can inhale enemies and then spit them out in eggs. Once you get the basics down, you can spend hours figuring out which combinations of buttons yield the most damaging attacks.

Each melee takes place on a two-dimensional field of floating platforms, with backgrounds inspired by classic games dating all the way back to "Donkey Kong." The goal of each fight, which lasts just a few minutes, is to weaken your rival enough so your next punch sends him or her flying off the platforms. The new "Smash Bros." lets up to eight people leap into the fray. I found that a little too chaotic; it's hard to keep track of your own fighter when so many are jumping around. Four-player brawls feel just right, providing enough

action to keep everyone busy without making anyone squint.

Nintendo has built in plenty of variations to the core game. Event matches and special orders force you to win brawls with certain restrictions, such as time limits or more aggressive opponents. Smash Tour is a board game in which you collect characters to face off in a final series of fights. You can even build your own battle arenas.

And then there's amiibo (\$12.99 each), Nintendo's new line of character figurines. When you place a Mario amiibo, for example, on the Wii U GamePad, you can train him to fight in different styles or boost his stats with equipment won in-game. You don't directly control that character, but you can enlist him to fight by your side. "Smash Bros." remains one of Nintendo's best party franchises. Sure, you can compete online, but you'll miss out on all the laughter that results from gathering friends for virtual fisticuffs in your living room. Three stars out of four. □



This vide game image released by Nintendo shows a scene from "Super Smash Bros. for Wii U." (AP Photo/Nintendo)



Barbie dolls appear on the shelf at Woodbury Mountain Toys in Montpelier, Vt. Elsa, Anna and the rest of the "Frozen" characters are the top toy for girls this holiday season, according to a new survey from the National Retail Federation. The results mark the first time in 11 years that Barbie hasn't held the No. 1 spot. (AP Photo/Toby Talbot)

Barbie dethroned by Team Elsa

NEW YORK (AP) — For the first time in more than a decade Barbie has been frozen out of the top spot on the holiday wish lists of girls. The new reigning champion in the hearts of little girls is Team Elsa.

The megahit "Frozen" has earned Disney more than a billion at the box office worldwide and the gravitational pull of the animated film has now plucked Barbie from the throne she that she has occupied for 11 years, according to a survey by the National Retail Federation.

The NRF's Holiday Top Toys Survey found that one in five parents, or 20 percent, plans to buy "Frozen" mer-

chandise for their girls. That beats the 16.8 percent that are looking to make a Barbie purchase.

Barbie's star has faded of late, with sales of the iconic doll dropping 21 percent in the third quarter, according to the toy company Mattel Inc. "Frozen," even a year after the release of the film, continues to rule the playground, where girls spontaneously form circles and burst into songs like "Let It Go," and "For the First Time in Forever." Dolls dominated the top five spots for girls in the NRF poll. Monster High dolls took the fourth spot and American Girl grabbed the fifth position. □

Warplanes strike airport in Libya capital again

MERRIT KENNEDY

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Warplanes again bombed a Libyan military air base Tuesday that until a day earlier was Tripoli's only functioning airport, shortly after the Islamist-backed prime minister said his government was at war. Late Monday, Prime Minis-

ter Omar al-Hassi said the Cabinet will now adopt "a policy of confrontation and war," comments directed at his rivals in Libya's internationally recognized government based in the country's east.

"Now, we face an enemy that has plenty of weapons and support from abroad, and we are fac-

ing more than one country supplying it with arms," he said.

Al-Hassi also sharply criticized the United Nations envoy to Libya, saying that Bernardino Leon "doesn't see the reality" of the situation.

The Monday-Tuesday bombings of Matiga air base — held by Islamist-

allied militias — appear to be part of efforts by the elected government to retake the capital after the Islamist-allied militias seized it.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters, said the morning raids did not result in casualties

or damage to the airport. They said several homes near the base were damaged and the attack caused panic at a nearby school.

Two people were killed in Monday's airstrikes on the same base, and an airport official said that three missiles hit the military airstrip's runway. □

2 teen female bombers kill more than 40 in Nigeria

HARUNA UMAR

Associated Press

BAUCHI, Nigeria (AP) —

The teenage girls entered the busy marketplace separately Tuesday, their vests of explosives hidden beneath their full hijabs.

The first detonated her bomb, killing three women. As rescuers rushed in, the second girl screamed and set off her explosives, killing dozens more, according to witnesses and authorities.

More than 40 people died in the double suicide bombing in Maiduguri, a provincial capital in northeastern Nigeria, according to Haruna Issa, a hospital volunteer in the city.

Suspicion immediately fell on the insurgents from the Islamic militant group Boko Haram, which controls a large part of northeastern Nigeria and is blamed for the deaths this year of at least 1,500 people in Africa's most populous country.

In its campaign of violence, Boko Haram has used car bombs and men wearing vests of explosives. It also has begun using women who can cover the

explosives with their hijabs, and the recruits appear to have gotten younger, with several instances of teenage attackers earlier this

year. The militants attracted international attention with their April kidnapping of more than 200 school-

girls from Chibok, about

125 kilometers (78 miles) southwest of Maiduguri. The schoolgirls are still miss-



People gather at the scene of an explosion at a central market in Nigeria. Two female suicide bombers blew themselves up Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2014, in a crowded market in Nigeria's northeastern city of Maiduguri, killing at least 30 people, according to witnesses and a security official. The two teenage girls dressed in full hijabs entered the busy market and detonated their explosives, said Abba Aji Kalli, the Borno state coordinator of the Civilian Joint Task Force.

(AP Photo/Josy Ola)

year.

The militants attracted international attention with their April kidnapping of

ing and their plight has aroused international concern and prompted the #BringBackOurGirls social

media campaign. On Oct. 17, the parents of the schoolgirls were encouraged when the Nigerian military announced a

Those hopes were quickly dashed when Boko Haram fighters continued attacks and seized several cities and towns across the northeast. In a video statement, Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau denied the cease-fire and scoffed at claims of negotiations to release the schoolgirls.

It was not known if Tuesday's attackers were connected with the April abduction. A worker with a nongovernmental organization said young women in northern Nigeria are especially vulnerable to recruitment by the extremist group. The worker spoke on condition of anonymity because she feared for her safety. The coordinated bombings by the two girls dressed in full hijabs took place as the marketplace was crowded with shoppers, said Abba Aji Kalli, the coordinator of the Civilian Joint Task Force in Borno state. The first girl set off her explosives, while the second apparently waited until the rescuers rushed in to help before detonating her bomb, killing another 30 people, Kalli said. □

Pope to Europe: Accept immigrants, create jobs

NICOLE WINFIELD

JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

STRASBOURG, France (AP) —

Pope Francis sought Thursday to inspire an old and "haggard" Europe to find its vigor and greatness once again, urging European governments to welcome migrants, care for the elderly and create jobs for the unemployed.

Francis outlined his vision for

the continent in a pair of speeches to the European Parliament and Council of Europe a quarter-century after St. John Paul II travelled to Strasbourg to address a continent still divided by the Iron Curtain.

Greeted with polite applause at the start of his speech and a sustained standing ovation at its finish, Francis said he wanted to bring a message of hope

to Europeans distrustful of their institutions, burdened by economic crisis and spiritually adrift in a culture that he said no longer values the dignity of human beings. "A Europe which is no longer open to the transcendent dimension of life is a Europe which risks slowly losing its own soul," he said. He called for Europe to find its footing once again, saying it had once been driven

by an "insatiable thirst" for knowledge, peace and unity. Specifically, Francis called for legislators to promote policies that create jobs and accept immigrants. "We cannot allow the Mediterranean to become a vast cemetery!" he said. The Argentine Jesuit has frequently spoken out about the plight of migrants seeking a better life in Europe. He travelled to the

tiny island of Lampedusa in the summer of 2013 to show solidarity with the migrants who arrive and to honor those who have died trying — a number that Italian officials estimate to be more than 2,000 in 2014 alone.

On Tuesday, Francis warned that the absence of a coherent EU migration policy "contributes to slave labor and continuing social tensions." □



on the spot! You pick the Catch - Our Chef will grill it, just the way you like it!

SUNDAYS FRESH FISH BBQ BUFFET

Fish as fresh as it gets! From the sea...on your plate! **\$30 pp** Kids half price

Breakfast 8am - 11am
Lunch 11am - 5pm
Dinner 5pm - 11pm

Located between Marriott's Surf Club and MooMba beach... Right on the beach! Call (+297) 586 2288
www.hadicurari.com

Seafood with a view

Hadicurari

Restaurant at the Fisherman's Pier - Aruba

ARUBA WINE & DINE



This undated file combination image released by the Metropolitan Police shows Lee Rigby's killers Michael Adebolajo, left, and Michael Adebowale. (AP Photo/Metropolitan Police)

Report: Spies lacked info to stop murder

JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's intelligence agencies were monitoring two al-Qaida-inspired extremists who killed a British soldier on a London street, but did not know about a key online exchange that could have alerted authorities to the impending attack, lawmakers said Tuesday.

Parliament's Intelligence and Security Committee said that if a U.S.-based Internet firm had told British spies about Michael Adebowale's online declaration that he wanted to kill a soldier, "there is a significant possibility" the May 2013 murder could have been prevented.

But the report concluded that spy agencies "were not in a position to prevent the murder" with the information they had at the time.

Adebowale's "explicit and emotive" exchange with an extremist overseas was only discovered after he and Michael Adebolajo killed

Fusilier Lee Rigby in front of shocked bystanders on a busy street. After the slaying, Adebolajo was filmed ranting about British policy in Muslim lands while holding bloody knives.

The committee's 192-page report into the attack found delays and other failings by British intelligence agencies. But it leveled its strongest criticism at U.S.-based Internet companies such as Google, Twitter and Yahoo, which it accused of failing to report extremist content or comply with British requests to hand over information.

The report did not identify the company involved in Adebowale's online declaration, but British media identified it as Facebook.

Facebook said in a statement that it did not comment on individual cases but "we do not allow terrorist content on the site and take steps to prevent people from using our service for these purposes."

Responding to the report, Prime Minister David Cam-

eron said Internet companies had a social and moral responsibility to avoid being used in terrorist plots.

He said that if companies "provide services in the U.K. they should be subject to U.K. law," and told lawmakers he had raised the issue with President Barack Obama.

Isabella Sankey of human rights group Liberty accused the committee of seeking "to blame the communications companies for not doing the (intelligence) agencies' work for them."

The report said that the two attackers had shown up on spy agencies' radar in seven different investigations, and in two of them Adebolajo had been labelled a "high priority."

The committee criticized Britain's foreign intelligence agency, MI6, for a four-month delay in opening an investigation into Adebolajo after he was arrested in Kenya in 2010 while attempting to travel to Somalia to join al-Shabaab militants. □

Cash is cut to Ukraine rebel areas in risky new strategy

PETER LEONARD
BALINT SZLANKO
Associated Press

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP) — For hours, small crowds in Donetsk huddle hopefully in the cold around cash machines that never get filled, as artillery rumbles in the distance.

Money is running short in the rebel heartland since the government announced this month that it will suspend banking services as it piles on the pressure. Almost all ATMs have stopped working and the remainder are expected to stop operating over the next two weeks.

The move is part of Ukraine's plan to suffocate its separatist foe, now that its costly military campaign has foundered. Authorities say they are also withdrawing all state services from rebel areas, although hospital and school workers in the rebel stronghold of Donetsk say it has been a while since they last saw funding anyhow.

Yet if the government of President Petro Poroshenko hopes to turn people in eastern Ukraine against the separatist leadership, evidence on the ground suggests the strategy may only be hardening their resolve.

"What Poroshenko is saying to us is: 'You are no longer Ukrainians. You won't get pensions, you won't get social payments. When you croak, then we'll stop this war against you,'" said Donetsk retiree Georgy Sharov.

"But I don't want to go to Ukraine and beg for their mercy."

The lines have typically formed in front of cash machines belonging to state savings bank Oshchadbank, which handles pensions and social support payments.

"Even they don't always have money," said Donetsk resident Sergei Smotovsky, standing outside a branch of the bank. "The worst thing is that not only can you not get social payments. You can't even withdraw money that you earned, your salary."

Even though cash machines don't work, account-holders wait from early morning until lunchtime in the hope that bank workers will top them up, but the doors to the banks often remain firmly shut.

Despite the unremitting fighting taking place across Donetsk and Luhansk, the two regions affected by the armed separatist conflict, large supermarkets are still reasonably stocked.

Supplies come from other parts of Ukraine and customers often use bank cards to pay for shopping. Ukraine's government is now about to block bank cards, cutting off another means of sustenance.

Hard-pressed recipients of state benefits have for months turned expectantly to the rebel government for cash. Crowds of pensioners and single mothers assemble daily before the separatist headquarters. When anybody in the crowd becomes especially vocal, one of the gunmen guarding the building rushes to bundle them away, accusing them of being "provocateurs."

Continued on Page 27

As OPEC faces tough test, lower oil prices loom

JONATHAN FAHEY

AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—These are the moments OPEC exists for: A sharp drop in global oil prices has reduced the amount of money OPEC countries take in by nearly \$1 billion a day.

The 12-member group's purpose is to coordinate how much oil is produced in order to keep prices high and stable and maximize member countries' revenue while making sure global demand for oil stays strong. A steep, coordinated cut in output could stop and possibly reverse what has been a 30 percent decline in prices over five months.

But there is widespread doubt that OPEC will be able to do much of anything when it meets Thursday in Vienna. Either the members won't agree to a cut, analysts say, or the cut will be too small to influence oil prices. They could also, as in the past, agree to lower production but then fail to stick to the target.

That could mean further declines in the price of oil, along with fuels such as gasoline, diesel and jet fuel.

"The idea that this is a cartel that places meaningful restrictions on its members' behavior is fiction," says Jeff Colgan, a political science professor at Brown University's Watson Institute who studies OPEC. "OPEC countries do exactly what we would expect them to do if there were no such thing as OPEC."

OPEC is at a crossroads. The group, which produces 30 million barrels of oil per day, one-third of global liquid fuel demand, is facing the most pronounced decline in oil prices since the financial crisis hit in 2008. And the world now is drastically different. Oil production outside of OPEC is surging for the first time in a generation, boosting global oil supplies. U.S. production has surged 70 percent since 2008, adding 3.5 million barrels of oil per day. The increase itself is more than any OPEC member

produces other than Saudi Arabia.

At the same time, OPEC members around the world — those in the Middle East and North Africa, along

OPEC countries need oil money more than ever, making the steep cuts in production that would be necessary to push up prices all but impossible.

decide how much room to make, if any, for North American supply growth." Without a cut in output, global supply is on track to exceed demand by 1.2

or adherence to current OPEC quotas, might not be enough to stop the slide in prices.

Already, the global price of oil has fallen 30 percent since late June, to \$80 a barrel, from \$115. This has been a boon for consumers, airlines and shippers. The U.S. national average retail price of gasoline has fallen to a four-year low of \$2.81 per gallon.

When OPEC meets Thursday, analysts expect members in dire financial positions such as Iran, Iraq, Nigeria and Venezuela to argue for a significant production cut. Their problem: They can't afford to cut output themselves.

Saudi Arabia, by far OPEC's biggest producer, is unlikely to agree to cut its own output enough to reverse the decline in global prices. It has large reserve funds that allow it to withstand long periods of lower prices. And it may have geopolitical reasons to keep prices subdued, at least right now. For example, low oil prices may help pressure Iran to agree reach an agreement on its nuclear program. □



Oil personnel work at the Rumaila oil refinery, near the city of Basra, Iraq. OPEC's purpose is to coordinate oil output to keep prices high and stable, to maximize member countries' revenue but make sure global demand for oil stays strong. A steep, coordinated cut in output could stop and possibly reverse what has been a 30 percent decline in price over five months.

(AP Photo/Nabil al-Jurani)

with countries such as Venezuela and Nigeria — are undergoing wrenching political upheaval that is putting extraordinary pressure on government budgets.

"They have quite a task in front of them," says Bhushan Bahree, senior director for OPEC and Middle East research at the analysis firm IHS. "They have to

million barrels per day next year. If that comes to pass, oil prices would almost certainly decline further. Even a modest announced cut of 500,000 barrels per day,

Guessing game: What are OPEC nations thinking?

JONATHAN FAHEY

AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — OPEC produces one-third of the world's oil and — in theory, at least — can affect global oil prices depending on how much oil it decides to sell. In reality, OPEC member countries have different, often conflicting priorities and don't adhere to the cartel's official targets for production.

When the cartel meets Thursday in Vienna, Iran and Venezuela are expected to call for a production cut in an effort to boost prices. Saudi Arabia, by far OPEC's biggest producer and most influential member, along with some of its allies, appear willing to have prices drift lower for now. Trying to guess what OPEC members are thinking, and how the cartel will act, is a high stakes parlor game in the oil industry. Here are some theories experts are raising:

— Saudi Arabia and other relatively well-off OPEC countries, such as the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, want to let prices fall to slow or stop production growth in the U.S. and Canada, where drillers require higher prices to make money. That way, OPEC can increase its market share.

— Saudi Arabia and its allies want to force prices lower to increase pressure on fellow OPEC member Iran during international negotiations over its nuclear program. Saudi Arabia does not want Iran to have a nuclear weapon. If prices stay low, Iran's economy suffers and its leaders could be more willing to limit its nuclear development in exchange for a relaxation of sanctions.

— Saudi Arabia wants to punish Russia for its support of Iran's nuclear program. Russia is not an OPEC member but is among the world's top three producers. It needs high oil prices to fund its government.

— Venezuela, Iran and Iraq — countries in difficult financial shape — want OPEC to cut production quickly and sharply to force prices higher. They are unlikely, however, to offer to cut their own production. Saudi Arabia increased its production in recent years to help replace supplies lost out of Iran, Syria and elsewhere. Many OPEC members feel Saudi Arabia should therefore be the country to cut now.

— Saudi Arabia wants to keep oil flowing and prices low because it fears that the battle to defeat the Islamic State group will at some point disrupt oil supplies or infrastructure in Syria and possibly Iraq. If oil prices start from a lower point, the global economy would be better able to absorb a price spike if those oil supplies are disrupted.

— Saudi Arabia sees no need to tamper with what it says is the normal oil cycle. A period of high prices inspired drillers to develop new oil projects around the world. They were successful, so supplies rose and prices fell. Investment will now slow, supply will tail off, and prices will naturally rise again in the coming years. □

Experts: bodies not those of Mexican students

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Argentine forensics experts working on mass graves in southern Mexico said Tuesday they have identified three bodies found there but none belong to students missing from a rural teachers college. Authorities looking for the 43 missing students have found at least 11 burial pits containing 38 bodies. The Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team said

the three it identified were people who disappeared in the city of Iguala in recent months. The teachers college students have not been seen since Sept. 26 when they were stopped by Iguala police and turned over to a drug gang. Prosecutors say that gang killed them and incinerated their remains. Burned bits of bone recovered from a nearby gar-

bage dump have been sent to Austria for genetic testing. The search for the missing students has exposed a number of unrelated victims buried in clandestine graves around Iguala, an area dominated by the Guerreros Unidos drug gang. An independent search for more clandestine burial sites being conducted by a vigilante-style "com-

munity police" force has turned up one site containing at least one, older set of human remains. The community members had claimed to have found as many as 10 burial sites, but prosecutors said Monday they have confirmed human remains at only one so far. Those skeletal remains were believed to have been buried more than a year ago. □

Tobago forces probe killing of German couple

TONY FRASER
Associated Press
PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (AP) — Trinidad & Tobago's top police commander said this week that a special team of officers is investigating the killing of an elderly German couple who were found hacked to death on a beach near their vacation home. Acting Police Commissioner Stephen Williams told reporters that the team is made up of investigators from several units who will be provided "whatever resources are needed" to solve the murders on Tobago.

Police have identified the German husband and wife as Hubertus and Birgid Keil, who both were in their 70s. Their bodies were found Saturday with multiple chop wounds on a beach near their Bacelot Bay villa. They had been coming to Tobago for 15 years. But two days after the bodies were located, there have been no arrests and police have provided no motive for the slayings. The German couple's residence was not disturbed. Their vacation home is a short distance away from the residence where a British couple was seriously injured in a home invasion by a machete-wielding attacker in 2009. The case remains unsolved.

When asked if the slaying of the German couple could be linked to the 2009 attack, Williams said more investigative work needed to be done but to "simply link these murders with that incident which took place five years ago is not logical." In 2008, an elderly Swedish couple was also chopped to death in their Tobago villa in a home invasion. That case is also unsolved. A Monday statement from the German Embassy in Trinidad's capital of Port-of-Spain said they were hopeful that "speedy action" by police will solve the slaying of the Keils. A local crime stopper group is offering \$16,000 for information leading to a conviction. □

Colombia rebels free first of five captives

CESAR GARCIA
Associated Press
BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombian rebels on Tuesday freed the first two of five captives on whose release President Juan Manuel Santos has conditioned the resumption of peace talks.

A humanitarian mission led by the international Red Cross and representatives from Cuba and Norway retrieved the two soldiers from a remote jungle location and ferried them by helicopter to a nearby army base close to the Colombia-Venezuela border for medical check-ups. The two men had been captured during a Nov. 9 firefight between the army and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. The FARC's peace negotiators, in a statement from Cuba, said that with the safe return home of the two soldiers their troops now are turning their attention to the expected release this week of Gen. Ruben Alzate and two other captives snatched in a separate incident. The guerrilla group reiterated its call for Colombia's U.S.-backed military to halt all operations in the area.

Santos in a speech Tuesday said that the FARC's decision to free the soldiers "demonstrates the maturity of the peace process."

Alzate is the first general to be taken by the FARC in a half-century of fighting and his accidental capture, as he was traveling along a river in

civilian clothes and without bodyguards, has been held up as a trophy by the guerrillas who consider military personnel prisoners of war. Santos called Alzate's capture "totally unacceptable" and suspended 2-year-old peace talks being

from poor families far removed from the political and economic capital of Bogota.

Rivera, who dropped out of high school to help his family by joining the army, was preparing to marry his longtime girlfriend, according to his



FARC Commander Pastor Alape talks to the press, accompanied by Pablo Catatumbo, chief of the FARC's western bloc, second left, in Havana, Cuba. Colombian rebels on Tuesday freed the first two of five captives on whose release President Juan Manuel Santos has conditioned the resumption of peace talks. (AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

held in Cuba. If not for the high-profile capture, it's likely that the rank and file soldiers released Tuesday, Paulo Cesar Rivera and Jonathan Diaz, would have remained captive much longer. Like most soldiers in Colombia's long war, both come

father.

Diaz's brother, Cristian, said he was overjoyed to learn of his release. "Of course I believe in peace, and hopefully they'll release the others so talks can resume soon," he told The Associated Press. □

Dominican police arrest 2 in killing of US lawyer

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Two men have been detained in the slaying of a Washington lawyer who was found dead last month at his home in the Dominican Republic, a police spokesman said Tuesday. The suspects confessed to killing 55-year-old Van

Teasley as part of a robbery scheme that they had been planning for at least a year, said Jacobo Mateo Moquete, a spokesman for the police in Santo Domingo, the capital. Teasley was a criminal lawyer in Washington. He kept a second home in the Dominican Republic and

a friend has said he traveled to the country about a dozen times a year. His body was found bound and gagged in his apartment Oct. 31. Police identified the two suspects as 20-year-old Luiggy Miguel Gonzalez Gamez, and 19-year-old Jhon Michael Cabrera.

They were found with Teasley's cellphone and clothing and a motorcycle they bought with money taken from his apartment, the spokesman said. Mateo said Gonzalez confessed that he started a relationship with the victim a year earlier with the intent of robbing him. □



Coordinated by Arion Wine Company;

Luis Torres Hosts Educational, Entertaining Wine Seminars



ORANJESTAD – Arion Wine Company recently had the honor of hosting Luis Torres, Director of Wine Education East for the Constellation Academy of Wine, for several informative and entertaining wine and food pairing seminars titled “The Liberation of Food and Wine.” The first seminar, at the Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort Spa & Casino, included a total of 85 participants

from the food and beverage industry on the island. They enjoyed tasting wines from the Constellation Brands, starting with a variety of white wines including a Kim Crawford Sauvignon Blanc, Relax Riesling and Estancia Chardonnay, followed by the reds; Estancia Pinot Noir, Ravenswood Zinfandel “Old Vine,” Franciscan Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, and ending

with the sweet and bubbly Fiorini Moscato. Each wine was paired with food or specific ingredients, ranging from Salt & Vinegar Chips to Sweet BBQ Sauce, while Torres educated them on some of the most important “bridge” foods to pick when drinking wine. The second seminar was offered to 25 students and faculty members from the Hospitality and Tour-

ism Management Studies at the University of Aruba. Aside from enjoying the pairings of food and wine, they also learned about



the differences between European and American Dining Habits, the Five Keys to Wine: acidity, sugar, alcohol, oak and tannin; and the Three Keys to Food: Ingredients, Method of Pro-

duction and Sauces/Condiments with side dishes.

A dynamic and engaging speaker, Torres drew from his extensive experience in wine supply and distribution, studies in Food and Science Technology and 15 years of experience in the restaurant industry, where he held an apprenticeship at Charlie Trotter's with Master Sommelier Larry Stone, studied with the Court of Master Sommeliers and The Wine and Spirits Education Trust.

At the end of both seminars, everyone received a certificate announcing their newfound knowledge of food and wine pairings. Our photos show the participants enjoying the seminars hosted by Luis Torres and Arion Wine Company. □

**LOCATED AT
BRICKELL BAY BEACH CLUB & SPA**



**EVERY DAY
HAPPY HOUR
9:00PM - 10:00PM**

OPEN SUNDAY THRU THURSDAY 5PM TILL 1AM / FRIDAY & SATURDAY 5PM TO 3AM



COCKTAIL



FUN



DANCE



The Cove

RESTAURANT & LOUNGE | OPEN 5PM - 1AM

Open Sunday at 1PM for American Football with Game Day Menu

J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 • 583.5000 • casinoalhambra.com



Aruba Says 'Masha Danki' to Loyal Visitors of Divi Village

EAGLE BEACH - Recently Aruba Tourism Authority honored Distinguished Visitors and Goodwill Ambassadors at Divi Village. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba between 10 and 20 consecutive years. All the honorees are mem-

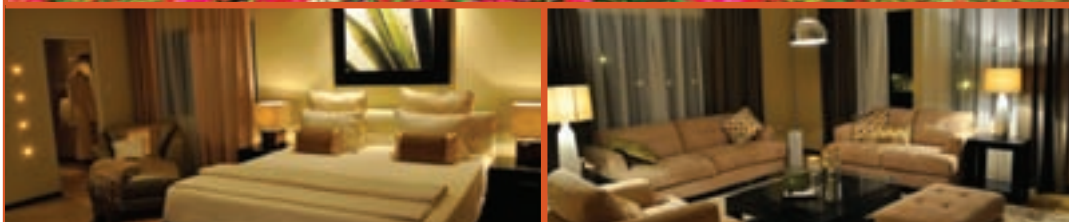
bers of Divi Village and have been enjoying the island every year. The honorees are Joseph Haberkorn, Heather Hull, Garry and Claudia Hull, Clarence and Victoria Reinstra, Robert and Jo-Ann Haberkorn, and Robert and Mary-Ann Piroha, all residents of New Jersey and New York! The certificates were pre-

sented by Ms. Darline S. de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Gloria Devoe, who conducted the ceremony held at Divi Village. Top reasons for returning provided by the honorees were the Fantastic Sunset, Beautiful Blue Ocean, Friendly Aruban Hospitality and the Local Restaurants. □





Your Island...
Your Lifestyle...
Your Home...



Luxury Villas, Town Homes & Condos

Contact us by email at info@goldcoastaruba.com
Tel: +297-586-2200 • Fax: +297-586-2201
Toll Free from the U.S. 1-866-978-5770
www.goldcoastaruba.com

PRICE STARTING FROM \$299,000

Visit us for Your Island Dream Home Ownership
Monthly Mortgage Payments
starting from \$1,650





For ADVERTISEMENTS in our Newspaper
aviso@bondia.com

Famous Argentine Model Soledad Solera Maxwell Visits Aruba

PALM BEACH - Mrs. Soledad Solera Maxwell, a professional model and her husband Leonardo Squarzon, a professional tennis player visited Aruba to promote our island in a famous magazine of Argentina called "Caras". They brought along their own photographer Eduardo Jimenez, who took hundreds of beautiful pictures all over the island. They visited the beaches, hotels, tourist attractions, casinos, restaurants and more to promote "Aruba, One Happy Island" in their magazine. On top of that, being on a romantic island, Soledad and Leonardo renewed their wedding vows. An event never to forget, hosted by the Aruba Tourism Authority's own Mr. Ricardo Croes. □



Wild CASH Wednesday

— WIN YOUR SHARE OF —

\$500 in Cash Prizes!

Earn one Free Entry Ticket for every
50 Points earned today from 10am to 10pm.

Cash Prize Raffles from 10:30pm to 11:30pm!

The Shops At Alhambra Casino

Offering a wide variety of
Retail & Dining Outlets,
Salon & Spa Services,
Souvenirs and more.

Baskin Robbins • Dunkin Donuts
Fusion Piano & Wine Bar
Juan Valdez Café • Subway • R-Glass
Shalom Body and Soul Spa
Hollywood Smokehouse
Hungry Piranha • Aruba Aloe
Bijoux Terner Boutique
The Lazy Lizard • The Market

Where Aruba goes to play!

Open daily 10am to 4am • J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 • 583.5000 • casinoalhambra.com

Must be an Alhambra Advantage member. All programs and promotions are subject to change or cancellation without prior notice.

ALHAMBRA
CASINO AND SHOPS

RENT ONE OF THESE TO

Explore Aruba

& discover hidden secrets!



\$5 P.P. off with this coupon.
(Valid with direct booking only)

vela

Watersports Center

Located between
The Marriott and The Ritz Carlton

Windsurfing-Kitesurfing-Paddleboard-SUP Yoga-Kayak

BOOK NOW: (+297) 586-3735



Budget

Rent a Car of Aruba

Camacuri #10
Tel: (297) 582-8600
Fax: (297) 582-7212
www.budgetaruba.com
budgetaruba@setanet.aw





This space can be yours

**CALL for more information
about our Special Price
Tel: 582-7800**

*We will personally make your
ad just the way you like it ...*



\$5 P.P. off with this coupon.
(Valid with direct booking only)

- Windsurfing lessons & rentals
- Kitesurfing lessons & rentals
- Mountain bike tours & rentals
- Landsailing
- SUP

Aruba-Active-Vacations.com
Tel: (+297) 586 0989

Located 1/4 mile past the Ritz Carlton Hotel
(Blue trailers, colored flags)

For reservation in this page call 582-7800

PRICE ARE BASE ON A 6 MONTH OR A YEAR CONTRACT.

It's Fishes & More!

Kevin and Jaime Whitney Have a New Favorite Restaurant!



PALM BEACH - When Kevin and Jaime Whitney from Boston, MA, tasted their grouper dish with red snapper, shrimp and scallops in a lemon sauce, they were sold! The couple said right away that from now on Fishes & More



was their new favorite restaurant on the island. They learned about Fishes & More from the guy at the water sports center at the Marriott Ocean Club and they will be forever grateful to him. Fishes & More is located in the Arawak Garden, where

a cluster of great restaurant and small shops find a cozy home. There is nightly live music and a piano bar at the Arawak Garden, which is located across from the Occidental Resort. Come and check it out, just like Jaime and Kevin did! □



This June 8, 2013 file photo shows LA Galaxy's Robbie Rogers before the first half during an MLS soccer game against Real Salt Lake in Sandy, Utah.

Associated Press

MLS player rues slow acceptance of gays in sports

MELISSA MURPHY

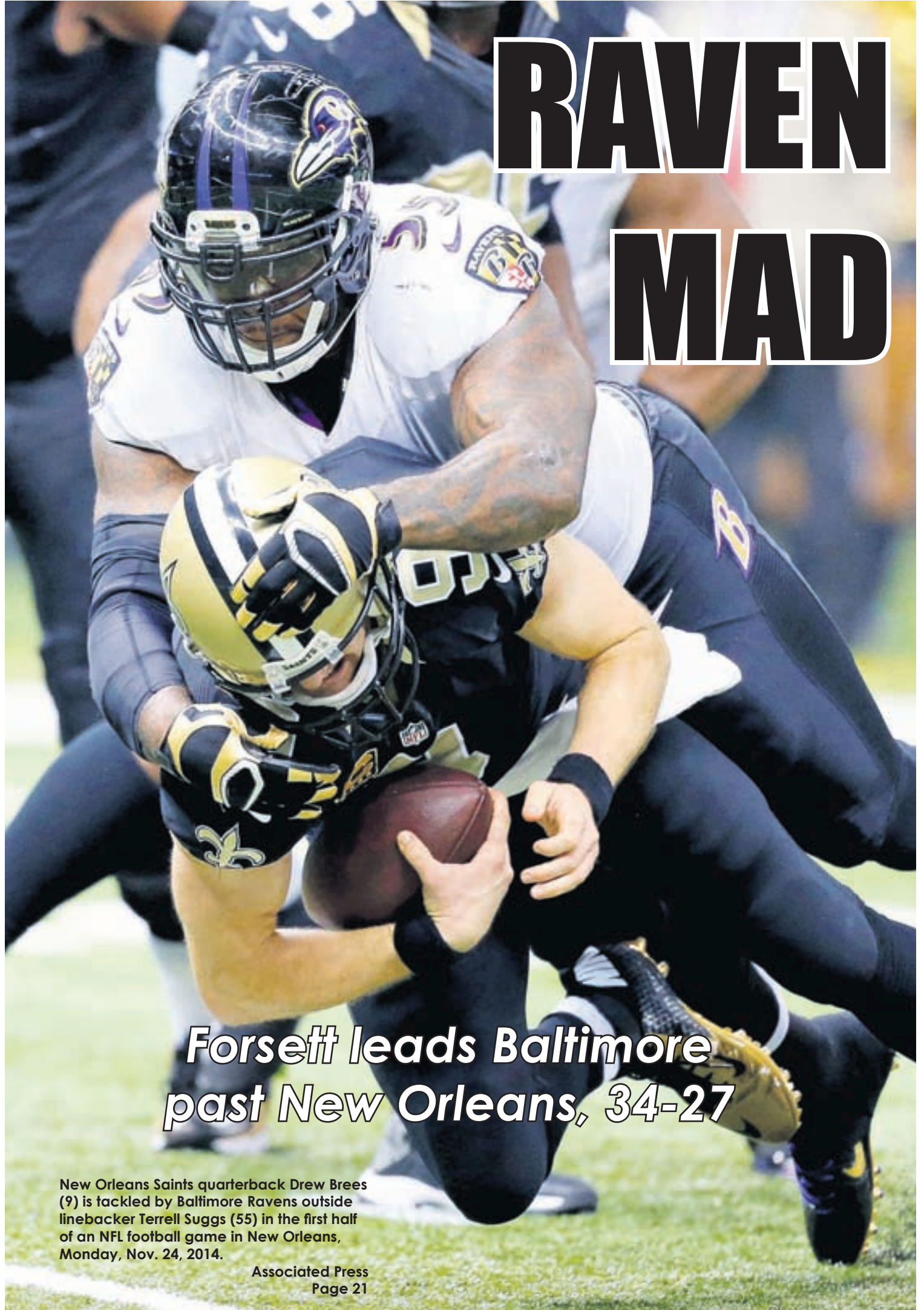
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) - Los Angeles Galaxy soccer star Robbie Rogers wants some company, now that he's the last man standing as an openly gay athlete in a U.S. professional league. Jason Collins recently retired from the NBA, and Michael Sam is without an NFL team. That leaves Rogers, the first openly gay player in Major League Soccer, hoping for a bigger fraternity.

"To be honest, I thought when I came out and Jason and Michael, I thought there'd be a chain reaction," Rogers said in a recent phone interview with The Associated Press. "It's been a lot slower. I guess that just reminds me how big a problem it is in sports culture with homophobia. They don't feel comfortable."

Rogers chronicles his struggles with soccer, faith and family acceptance in the memoir "Coming Out To Play," released Tuesday by Penguin Books.

Continued on Page 19



RAVEN MAD

Forsett leads Baltimore past New Orleans, 34-27

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees (9) is tackled by Baltimore Ravens outside linebacker Terrell Suggs (55) in the first half of an NFL football game in New Orleans, Monday, Nov. 24, 2014.

Associated Press
Page 21

NHL Roundup

Islanders outlast Mason, Flyers 1-0 in SO

UNIONDALE, New York (AP) — Frans Nielsen and John Tavares scored in a shootout as the New York Islanders edged the Philadelphia Flyers 1-0 on Monday to post the best 21-game start in club history.

Philadelphia goalie Steve Mason stopped 46 shots before the tie-breaker, but after denying Kyle Okposo, he was beaten twice. New York has a team-record 15 wins through 21 games (15-6) and is 5-0 in shootouts.

Jaroslav Halak made 21 saves for his third shutout this season. He has won seven straight, allowing only eight goals. The Islanders have won four in a row and nine of 10.

PITTSBURGH 3, BOSTON 2

Pittsburgh's Evgeni Malkin scored his second goal of the night 32 seconds into overtime to give the Penguins a 3-2 win over the Boston Bruins.

Sidney Crosby had a goal and two assists, including a crossing pass for Malkin's one-timer past goalie Tuukka Rask. Kris Letang had three assists for the Penguins, who had lost their last two against the Bruins.

Marc-Andre Fleury recovered after Boston scored two quick goals early in the second period and finished

MINNESOTA 4, FLORIDA 1

At Sunrise, Florida, Jason Zucker scored two goals to lead the Min-

nesota Wild over the Florida Panthers 4-1.

Niklas Backstrom stopped 29 shots to help the Wild win for the fifth time in six games.

Shawn Thornton scored for the Panthers, and Roberto Luongo made 35 saves.

DETROIT 4, OTTAWA 3

The Red Wings edged the Ottawa Senators 4-3 after Stephen Weiss scored twice during Detroit's three-goal second period.

Playing his second game this season after missing much of it with injuries, Weiss had a pair of rebound goals late in the second to lift Detroit to its third victory in four games. Riley Sheahan gave the Red Wings the lead for good during an early power play in the second when he knocked home a rebound of Tomas Tatar's shot.

Gustav Nyquist also scored for the Red Wings, and Jimmy Howard made 23 saves for his ninth win.

Craig Anderson stopped 39 shots in Ottawa's second consecutive loss. Mike Howard, Kyle Turris and Erik Karlsson scored for the Senators. □



New York Islanders center John Tavares (91) scores a goal in a shootout against the Philadelphia Flyers goalie Steve Mason (35) in an NHL hockey game at Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, N.Y., Monday, Nov. 24, 2014. The Islanders won 1-0 in a shootout.

Associated Press

with 27 saves for his 300th NHL win. Joe Morrow had his first career goal and Milan Lucic also scored for the Bruins.

nesota Wild over the Florida Panthers 4-1.

Nino Niederreiter also scored for the Wild, and Mikko Koivu had two

Aruhiba Cigars, Aruba's only hand rolled cigars!

t's a matter of prestige and quality...

With the purchase of \$20 + up, present this ad and receive a FREE Aruhiba Cigar

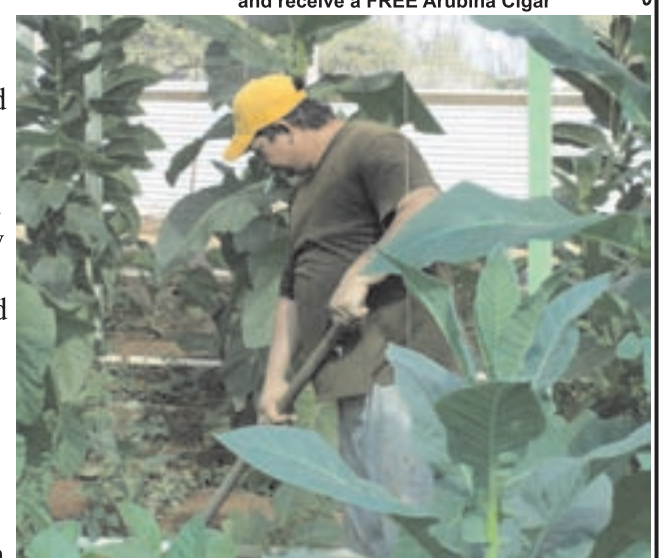
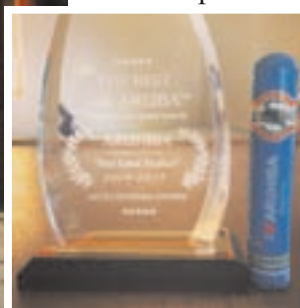


ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers

Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the RIO Hotel, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also

available at their Tobacco farm where their cigars are grown and rolled. Winner of the best of Aruba. The best local product. Cigars in Tubes Arubian design.

For a group or private tour, call 586-7833 / 593-6177 or send them an email at aruhibacigars@gmail.com www.aruhibacigars.com



Owner Benjamin Petrocchi



TOUCHDOWN
SPORTS BAR & GRILL

J.E. IRAUSQUIN BLVD 370
ACROSS OCCIDENTAL HOTEL
CALL 586 6020

THANKSGIVING

ALL DAY FOOTBALL

OPEN 12:00 NOON TILL 1:00 AM

BEARS VS LIONS	1:30 PM
EAGLES VS COWBOYS	5:30 PM
SEAHAWKS VS 49ERS	9:30 PM

SPECIAL THANKSGIVING MENU

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 27



MLS player

Continued from Page 17

It's a collaborative effort with Eric Marcus, who co-wrote Greg Louganis' book, and recollections from his mother and oldest sister. Rogers discusses growing up in Southern California, playing soccer in U.S. and European leagues and dealing with his sexuality.

On Sunday, he helped the Galaxy defeat Seattle 1-0 in the opener of the Western Conference finals. He's been a key defender this season after briefly retiring from the sport last year at age 25.

Rogers recently signed a contract extension, and the Galaxy players have embraced him. But locker rooms notoriously weren't a safe environment to talk about sexuality, except for teammates bragging about their heterosexual conquests.

"Like every locker room I'd been in for years now, 'fag' and 'gay' were tossed around like an all-purpose putdown," he wrote. "It cut deeper into an already raw wound."

So Rogers stifled his feelings, occasionally dating women to please his questioning teammates and family. After playing five seasons for the Columbus Crew in MLS, with stints in the Netherlands and England, he realized his happiness required living an authentic life. So he simultaneously came out and retired in a blog post in February 2013, thinking he couldn't be an openly gay man and a pro soccer player.

But an outpouring of support, conversations with Los Angeles star Landon Donovan and an invitation from Galaxy coach Bruce

Arena to train with the team caused a change of heart.

Now the Galaxy are vying for a spot in the MLS final, Rogers is in a steady relationship and hoping more pro sports leagues provide education about diversity. That way, a teammate might think twice before throwing around gay slurs in the locker room.

COMFORT ZONE: There are still no openly gay players in the NFL, NHL or Major League Baseball.

"There are a number of gay men playing professional sports, just not out," Rogers told the AP. "In the end, it's really about guys coming out and changing the atmosphere by being in it. You definitely need to create the environment first where guys feel comfortable."

Baseball hired Billy Bean, who came out after his MLB career, to talk to all 30 teams about inclusion. Rogers says teams need to educate players on "racism, sexism and homophobia. The leagues should have a person there guys can go talk to, honestly. Talk about mental health or depression or guys wanting to come out."

EARLY YEARS: Rogers was a prodigy growing up, playing organized soccer at 4. As a teenager, he competed on the Orange County Blue Star team. Jurgen Klinsmann, now the coach of the U.S. national team, would occasionally stop by. His favorite players were European stars Thierry Henry and Zinedine Zidane. After helping Maryland win the 2005 NCAA title as a freshman, Rogers turned pro and went to the Netherlands. Playing for Leeds United in 2012, he sustained a concussion 12 minutes into

his debut, colliding with an opponent while going for a header. An ankle injury intensified his depression and isolation, and he eventually returned to the U.S. □

Los Angeles Galaxy midfielder Robbie Rogers, top, jumps over Seattle Sounders FC midfielder Micheal Azira during the second half of a Major League Soccer playoff game, Sunday, Nov. 23, 2014, in Carson, Calif.

Associated Press



FEEL THE VIBE...



FREE PARLAY

WEEKLY NFL FREE PARLAY CONTEST


YOU RECEIVE 1 FREE PARLAY TICKET FOR EVERY \$20 OR MORE BET ON ANY SPORTSBOOK WAGER

- NO POINT SPREAD • SIMPLY PICK THE WINNER OF ALL GAMES ON THE CARD
- MOST WINNERS WINS • PRIZE IS SHARED EQUALLY WHEN THERE IS A TIE

AWG 500.00	WEEKLY PRIZE FOR MOST CORRECT.
AWG 1,000.00	BONUS - FOR GETTING ALL GAMES CORRECT
AWG 100.00	ADDED TO BONUS EVERY WEEK THAT THE BONUS IS NOT PAID

* All free Parlay cards must be in 30 minutes before the start of the first game on the weekly card.
 * Free parlay card will be issued for every Sportsbook bet of \$20 or more - 25 points on Glamour Club Card.
 * One ticket per \$20 bet or more.
 * Players with the most correct games win. Prize money will be divided between all winners in the event of a tie
 * Management reserves all rights to cancel or alter this promotion at any time.

TEL 587 3399 • AT THE LA CABANA BEACH RESORT & CASINO



桃花閣

BLOSSOMS

Japanese and Chinese Restaurant

Lunch & Dinner

Located in the lower lobby of the hotel.
Please use side entrance in parking lot.

J.E. Irausquin Boulevard. 77, (ex-Westin Hotel) **Tel: 586-3388.**



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James drives to the basket against the Orlando Magic during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game Monday, Nov. 24, 2014, in Cleveland. James scored a team-high 29 points for Cleveland's 106-74 win over Orlando.

Associated Press

NBA Capsules

LeBron James leads Cavs over Magic 106-74

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — LeBron James scored 29 points, including 16 in the first quarter, as the Cleveland Cavaliers broke a four-game losing streak with a 106-74 win over the Orlando Magic on Monday night.

After bluntly assessing his own play at Monday's shootaround, saying, "I stink," James took control early and sparked his team to a much-needed comfortable win.

After averaging 18.5 points and shooting 41 percent from the field in the losing

streak, James was 9 for 17 from the field Monday and tied a season-high with 11 assists while not playing the fourth quarter.

James hit four shots from the field, including a 3-pointer, made all seven of his free throws and had four assists in the opening period. He finished the first half with 22 points, including a fadeaway jumper from the top of the key to end the second quarter.

Anderson Varejao scored 14 points while Kevin Love and Kyrie Irving each added 12.

CLIPPERS 113, HORNETS 92
CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — Blake Griffin had 22 points and a season-high 16 rebounds, and Chris Paul had 22 points and a season-high 15 assists as Los Angeles handed Charlotte their sixth straight loss.

Griffin was 10 of 23 from the field and finished one assist shy of a triple-double.

The Clippers were 15 of 32 from 3-point range, while the Hornets were just 2 of 20. Jamal Crawford had 21 points and J.J. Redick added 17 and the sharp-shooting duo combined to go 9 of 17 from beyond the arc. Paul came in averaging had 9.5 assists for the Clippers (8-5).

Cody Zeller led the way for Charlotte with a career-high 17 points off the bench. Al Jefferson had 16 points and nine rebounds, and Kemba Walker added 15 points for the Hornets (4-11), who have lost eight of their last nine games.

TRAIL BLAZERS 114, 76ERS 104

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — La-

Marcus Aldridge had 15 of his 33 points during the pivotal third quarter to help Portland defeat Philadelphia, sending the 76ers to their 14th straight loss to open the season.

Wesley Matthews added 17 points, Damian Lillard had 16 and Robin Lopez chipped in 12 for Portland (11-3), which won its eighth in a row.

Michael Carter-Williams led Philadelphia (0-14) with 24 points.

The 76ers moved within one loss of matching the franchise mark for consecutive losses to begin a season and will look to avoid an 0-15 opening when they host Brooklyn on Wednesday. They also are just four losses from tying the 2009-10 Nets, who set an NBA record by beginning the season 0-18. If the losing continues, Philadelphia could break the NBA record for losses to start the season on Dec. 5 when hosting Oklahoma City.

RAPTORS 104, SUNS 100

TORONTO (AP) — Jonas Valanciunas had a career-high 27 points and 11 rebounds, and DeMar DeRozan scored 23 as Toronto won their fifth straight game, beating Phoenix Suns 104-100.

Lou Williams scored 17, Kyle Lowry had 14 and Terrence Ross added 13 for the Raptors, who improved 9-1 at home and 4-0 against Western Conference opponents.

Eric Bledsoe scored 25 points and Markieff Morris had 17 for the Suns, whose four-game winning streak was snapped.

LE VENT
Condominiums
at Eagle Beach
ARUBA



FOR SALE
Condominiums & Villas

C: +297 5927275
T: +297 2801005
E: info@leventaruba.com
J.E. Irausquin Blvd. 244
Eagle Beach, Aruba

A luxurious residential complex built to the highest level, with quality finishes, bright spaces and all the details one could dream for in their home.

Walking distance to Eagle Beach and Spectacular Ocean View.



Aruba, Paradise in the Caribbean



Pelican Nest Bar & Seafood Grill
 Come & see the spectacular Sunset on the sea
 Ask for our daily chef special
 Our menu offer an impressive selection of Fresh Seafood
 (caught daily by our own fleet), International Dishes and a relaxing Atmosphere.
DAILY HAPPY HOUR
 at our Captain's Morgan Bar from 4 - 6 pm \$4 Bar.
 Open daily from 11 am - 10 pm
 For Reservations call: 5862259
 Located between Holiday Inn Hotel & Playa Linda Resort www.pelican-aruba.com



NFL Roundup

Bills rout Jets 38-3 in rescheduled game

DETROIT (AP) — Scott Chandler capped an emotionally draining week with a celebration for the fans back home in Buffalo during the 38-3 victory over the New York Jets on Monday night.

After catching a touchdown pass shortly before halftime, he began mimicking a shoveling motion, a nod to Bills fans who have spent the last few days digging out of several feet of snow.

"It was a little bit of a tribute to the people of Buffalo," Chandler said. "You want to do something special for our fans. They did a great job showing up for us to-night."

After a week of frightening weather and an abbreviated practice schedule, Buffalo played one of its best games of the season. Kyle Orton threw two touchdown passes, and the Bills also had a key play on specials teams in the run-away win.

In the other game Monday, Justin Forsett rushed for 182 yards and two touchdowns as Baltimore beat New Orleans 34-27 to hand the Saints their third consecutive loss.

Heavy snow in the Buffalo area moved the Bills-Jets game to Detroit, but there were plenty of Bills fans in attendance at Ford Field. Buffalo (6-5) couldn't even practice before arriving in Michigan on Friday, but it was the Jets (2-9) who looked out of sorts all night.

"We probably had the easy part of it, and back

home they had the tough part," Orton said. "Excited to get here and get a big win for us, and hopefully this will propel us forward."

Orton threw a 7-yard touchdown pass to Robert Woods in the first quarter, and the

wasn't quite full, the crowd of 56,044 created a decent atmosphere in prime time.

"Our fans are phenomenal," Buffalo coach Doug Marrone said. "When I first came out there, you don't know what to expect. ... Ob-

falo's team logo at mid-field and "BILLS" in both end zones.

Michael Vick went 7 of 19 for 76 yards for the Jets before being replaced by Geno Smith in the third quarter. The Jets missed a great chance at the end of

didn't block, we didn't tackle, we didn't do anything."

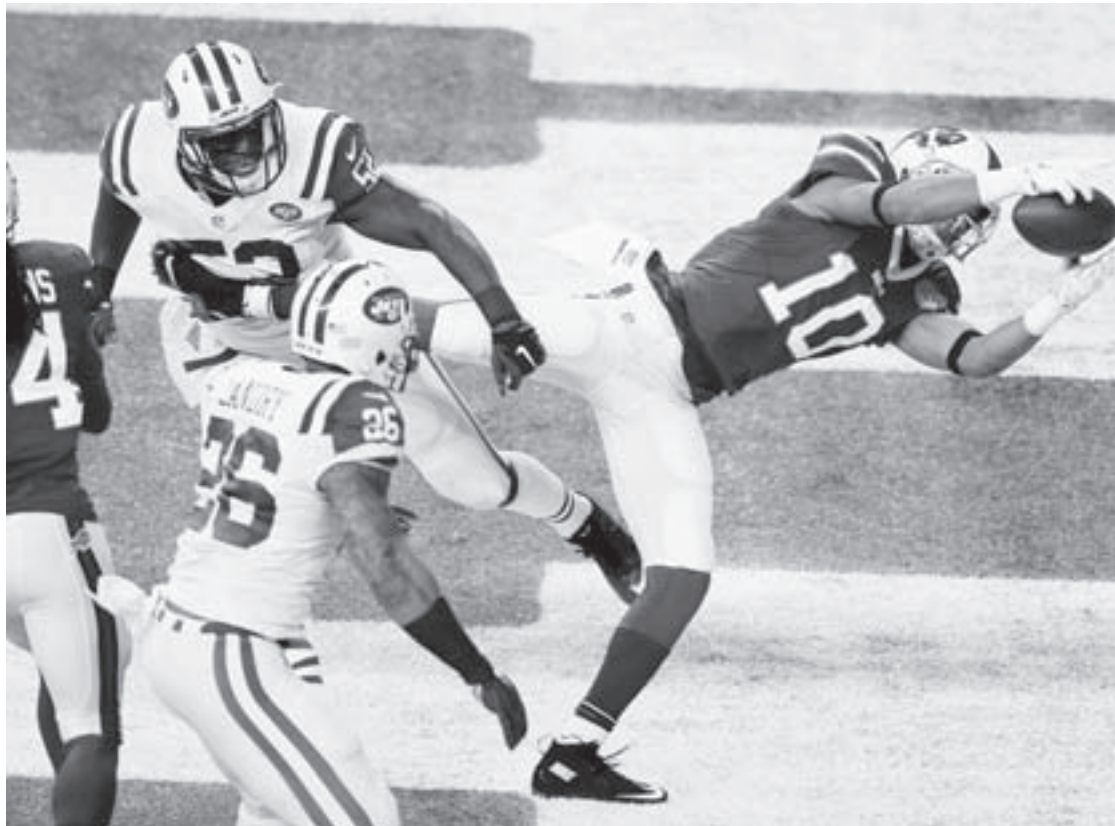
Buffalo, which has not made the playoffs since the 1999 season, is a game out of a wild card in the AFC.

At New Orleans, Forsett ripped off one long run after another, and the Ravens battered Drew Brees into a very costly mistake.

Will Hill had a 44-yard interception return for a go-ahead score for Baltimore in the third quarter. Steve Smith caught four passes for 89 yards, including a 15-yard touchdown catch for the Ravens (7-4), who improved to 4-0 against the NFC South and remained within a half-game of AFC North leader Cincinnati (7-3-1). Brees passed for 420 yards and three touchdowns for New Orleans (4-7), which remained tied for first in its anemic division with Atlanta, which lost to Cleveland a day earlier. Now New Orleans and Atlanta have the dubious distinction of being the first teams in NFL history to occupy first place in a division while three games under .500.

Jimmy Graham had two TD catches for the Saints, who had won 14 straight home night games.

Brees was sacked four times, and his pivotal interception came as he threw under pressure from Terrell Suggs. The pass was behind Graham, allowing Hill to snag it with nothing but open field in front of him. □



Buffalo Bills wide receiver Robert Woods (10) scores on a seven-yard reception between the defense of New York Jets inside linebacker David Harris (52) and strong safety Dawan Landry (26) during the first half of an NFL football game in Detroit, Monday, Nov. 24, 2014.

Associated Press

second-year receiver's one-handed catch set up another touchdown in the second. Chandler caught a 19-yard scoring pass from Orton to make it 14-3 late in the half.

Chandler needed a snowmobile to get out of his neighborhood before the team traveled to the Detroit area, and the Bills faced logistical issues for several days. Tickets to the game were given out for free, and although Ford Field

viously, you get concerned whether is it going to be a home field or things like that, or be ready for a silent count. Then all of a sudden when I came out and looked to the right, and I saw all of those blue jerseys, I was like, 'Holy cow, baby. Here we go. We've got the crowd.'" It was Buffalo's second victory of the year in Detroit — the Bills beat the Lions in early October. The field was repainted for this game, with Buf-

the first half, when the Bills inexplicably let Eric Decker slip behind the defense with only a few seconds left, and Vick's pass sailed inches beyond the receiver's grasp.

New York's night was summed up in the second half when Buffalo linebacker Nigel Bradham dragged Jets running back Chris Ivory to the ground by his hair.

"That was a horrible performance," Jets coach Rex Ryan said. "We

Calorie count to appear with many prepared foods

By **MARY CLARE JALONICK**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Diners will soon know how many calories are in that bacon cheeseburger at a chain restaurant, the pasta salad in the supermarket salad bar and even that buttery tub of popcorn at the movie theater.

The Food and Drug Administration announced long-delayed calorie labeling rules Tuesday, requiring establishments that sell prepared foods and have 20 or more locations to post the calorie content of food and beverages "clearly and conspicuously" on their menus, menu boards and displays. Companies have until a year from now to comply.

"Americans eat and drink about one-third of their calories away from home, and people today expect clear information about the products they consume," FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg said.

WHERE YOU'LL SEE THE LABELS

Calorie content will appear on menus and menu boards in chain restaurants, bakeries, coffee shops, pizza delivery stores, movie theaters, amusement parks and any other locations that are part of a larger chain and serve prepared foods. They will also apply to some prepared foods in supermarkets and convenience stores.

The idea is that people may avoid that burger and fries if they add up the calories - and retailers may make their foods healthier to keep calorie counts down.

The menus and menu boards will tell diners that a 2,000-calorie diet is used as the basis for daily nutrition, noting that individual calorie needs may vary. Additional nutritional information beyond calories, including sodium, fats, sugar and other items, must be available upon request.

WHY THE RULES WERE DELAYED

Calorie labeling became law as part of health overhaul in early 2010, almost five years ago. Hamburg



FILE - In this July 18, 2008 file photo, calories of each food item appear on a McDonalds drive-thru menu in New York. The Food and Drug Administration announced long-delayed calorie labeling rules Tuesday, requiring establishments that sell prepared foods and have 20 or more locations to post the calorie content of food "clearly and conspicuously" on their menus, menu boards and displays. Companies will have until November 2015 to comply. (AP)

says writing the rules was challenging because of the need to navigate concerns of the varied establishments that sell food. Supermarkets, convenience stores and pizza deliverers lobbied hardest against the rules.

Restaurant chains went along with the rule as a way to dodge an uneven patchwork of local rules and pushed for the other establishments to be included.

GROCERY STORE CONFU-

SION

Representatives of supermarkets have said the rules could cover thousands of items in each store, far more than restaurants. To address that, FDA excluded prepared foods that are typically intended for more than one person to eat and require more preparation, like deli meats, cheeses or bulk deli salads. But a sandwich sold in a grocery store would have to have a calorie label.

In some cases foods will

have to be labeled in one part of the store but not in another. Cut fruit would be labeled in a salad bar, for example, but not in a container for sale, because that is generally meant to take home and eat over a period of time. The FDA says the idea is to label calories of foods that are meant to be eaten at the store or as takeout, rather than for further preparation at home. Leslie G. Sarasin, president and CEO of the Food Marketing Institute, said the

group is extremely disappointed in the rules, which she said will affect stores' offerings of "fresh, minimally processed, locally produced items" such as cut cantaloupe, mixed salads or steamed seafood.

BOOZE INCLUDED

One surprise in the final rules is that alcoholic drinks will have to be labeled if they are listed on menus. Alcohol had been exempted in rules proposed three years ago.

Nutrition advocates say customers often don't realize how many calories they are drinking when they order beverages like margaritas and ice cream drinks. Drinks ordered at the bar won't have to be labeled if they aren't on a menu.

WILL IT WORK?

New York City was first in the country to put a calorie-posting law in place, and other cities and states have followed. McDonald's and other restaurant chains already put calorie labels on menus and menu boards. The labels are popular with many, but it's too soon to know whether they'll affect obesity rates. A recent Agriculture Department study found the diets of people who use nutritional information are markedly better than those who don't, and healthy eaters had more interest in the labels. □

Doctor behind 'free radical' aging theory dies

JOSH FUNK

Associated Press

OMAHA, Nebraska (AP) —

Dr. Denham Harman, a renowned scientist who developed the most widely accepted theory on aging that's now used to study cancer, Alzheimer's disease and other illnesses, has died in Nebraska at age 98.

Harman, who worked into his mid-90s at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, died Tuesday after a brief illness at a hospital in Omaha, medical center spokesman Tom O'Connor said.

Harvard Medical School professor David Sinclair said Harman's research in-



In this photo taken on Feb. 14, 2006, Dr. Denham Harman smiles at his 90th birthday celebration at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Neb.

Associated Press

spired thousands of young scientists to work on aging research.

"Dr. Harman is one of the most influential scientists of the past 50 years, bringing world-class science to what was once a backwater of biology," Sinclair said in a statement Tuesday. Harman developed the "Free Radical Theory of Aging" in 1954, though it took years for additional research to prove its importance.

In simple terms, the theory holds that one of the by-products of oxygen utilization is adverse chemical reactions in cells. The result is aging and, ultimately, death. □

Spotify prompts industry debates on streaming

KRISTIN M. HALL

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)

— From board rooms in Japan to songwriter's rooms in Nashville, a debate is brewing in music industry circles about the financial and creative value of streaming music, even as its popularity and impact skyrocket.

Streaming music, predicted by many analysts to become the primary digital means for fans to consume music, has such influence now that Billboard will start tallying streaming numbers into the formula for its Billboard 200 chart. But even as consumers wrap their arms around the technology, many in the music industry question whether streaming music revenues will match up.

At a recent investor meeting in Tokyo, Sony Music Chief Financial Officer Kevin Kelleher said a lot of conversation had been happening about streaming services in light of pop star Taylor Swift's recent decision to pull her catalog off Spotify.

"The key question is: Are the free, ad-supported services taking away from how quickly and to what extent we can grow these paid services?" Kelleher said, according to a report in the Wall Street Journal.

A Spotify representative declined to comment to The Associated Press, but company CEO and co-founder Daniel Ek has addressed some critics on its website. He notes that the company has paid out \$2 billion since it started in 2008.

Swift's actions touched a nerve in Nashville, a microcosm of the vast shifts in the musical economy. Country artists Jason Aldean, Brantley Gilbert and Justin Moore followed in Swift's lead to remove or limit music that's available for free to Spotify's 50 million users. Swift and Aldean have cited concerns about whether the service fairly compensates all the stakeholders who help make the music, a message that resonates among many Nashville artists.



In this Nov. 5, 2014 file photo, Jason Aldean performs onstage at the 48th annual CMA Awards at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tenn. Aldean joined Taylor Swift and others artists who have decided to remove their music from Spotify, which allows users to stream albums for free. The album has sold more than 467,000 copies since its release on Oct. 7 and hit No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart. "Old Boots, New Dirt" also had the biggest first week for a country album on Spotify with more than 3 million streams.

Associated Press

"If I was in the position of Taylor, I would have done the same thing," up-and-coming country singer Chase Rice said. "You want people to buy your music." Rice also sees potential with streaming music. He's built a fan base with his energetic live shows and his presence on Spotify, where he has more than 13 million streams so far.

"But for young artists like myself, Spotify is great because you can sell albums, but the most important thing is getting the music out there," Rice said recently. "However that happens. And Spotify allows that."

"All of the sudden the shift feels very seismic," said David Macias, founder of Thirty Tigers, a Nashville-based marketing, distribution and management company that works with Rice. "How do you reconcile getting 70 cents a download wholesale to six-tenths of a cent streaming? It doesn't intuitively feel correct."

Macias said musicians should mistrust the structures that pay them but notes that several artists he works with have made six figures off Spotify.

"I think when artists are saying they aren't getting paid, it's because of the label relationship they are in, not because Spotify is not paying," Macias said. "Somebody is getting paid."

Songwriters and publishers, who represent a large voice in country music, are unhappy with the "freemium" model, in which ads support the free part of the streaming service while trying to entice fans to sign up for subscription-based premium services, said Mike Steinberg, senior vice president for licensing for Broadcast Music, Inc., the performing rights organization that collects license fees on behalf of songwriters and publishers.

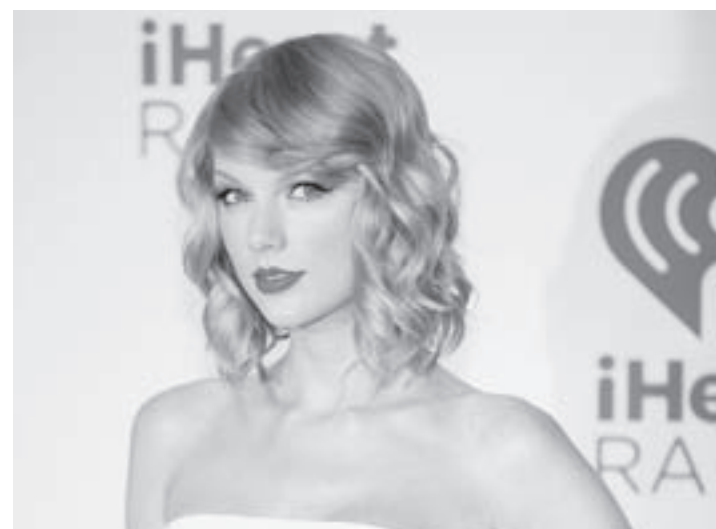
Spotify says 12.5 million of its users pay \$120 per year for its premium service.

"The ad revenue supporting the free-to-listener part of the Spotify model provides insufficient compensation to artists and labels for their creative work," Steinberg said. "And, since songwriters and publishers are getting only a small fraction of that, you can imagine the frustration and dissatisfaction we are hear-

the people that are providing them with the product they are selling," Clawson said. "If they can't, they need to go out of business." Paul Roper, president of Nashville-based Dualtone Music Group, said his act The Lumineers receives 1 million streams a week, which remains consistent even as album sales ebb and flow. He also gets valuable consumer data and exposure for his new artists such as Shakey Graves, who is benefiting from partnering with Spotify on playlists.

"We are in a unique moment in time where access model/streaming is starting to scale, but we haven't hit the full revenue potential of the model yet," Roper said in an email. "Once we hit subscriber numbers of 50 million, the debate will be nonexistent."

But Roper said Spotify has to be aggressive to keep



In this Sept. 19, 2014 file photo, Taylor Swift arrives at the iHeart Radio Music Festival in Las Vegas. Swift is releasing her fifth album, "1989," on Monday, Oct. 27, 2014. Spotify CEO Daniel Ek on Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2014 voiced disappointment that Swift pulled her music off the popular music streaming service, denying claims it's making money "on the backs of artists."

Associated Press

ing from them."

Rodney Clawson, who has written No. 1 country songs for artists such as Aldean, Luke Bryan, Blake Shelton, Florida Georgia Line and Tim McGraw, called the revenue he gets from music streaming so small, "it's an absolute joke."

"I personally think that streaming services are an amazing technology and have an exciting future — if they can figure out a way to properly compensate

those top name acts from abandoning the service too soon.

"Spotify is in a tough spot for what Taylor's precedent means for how other superstars will interact with the service," Roper said. "They are under a lot of pressure to increase premium subscribers and grow the per-play rate quickly. We are still in the infancy of this market and the general public is uninformed on how it works."

Stocks dip; oil tanks energy sector

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A slump in energy prices pushed the stock market back from record levels on Tuesday. Energy stocks slid as the price of oil resumed its descent. Traders speculated that member nations of the oil-producing group OPEC would fail to agree on

pretty conservative," McDonald said. "That means that the slow-and-steady market can continue longer than people anticipate."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 2.38 points, or less than 0.1 percent, to 2,067.03. The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 2.96 points, or less than 0.1

Among individual stocks, Pall, a company that makes filters for the food and health care industries, was the leading gainer in the S&P 500. The company's stock jumped \$3.31, or 3.5 percent, to \$98 after its earnings beat the expectations of Wall Street analysts. Energy stocks slid along with oil prices following re-



Specialist Michael Pistillo, left, and trader Thomas Ferrigno work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. A slump in energy prices pushed the stock market back from record levels on Tuesday.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

production cuts at an upcoming meeting in Vienna on Thursday. Oil has now dropped almost a third from a peak in June.

While lower oil prices are a long-term boon to consumers and industrial companies, they are a drag on stocks in the near term because the energy sector accounts for about 10 percent of the stock market's overall earnings.

Despite the losses, the major indexes remain close to all-time highs.

Stocks have been drifting gradually higher this month, having rebounded sharply from a slump in October, as investors have grown more confident that actions from central banks around the world will help bolster the global economy. The gains are likely to continue for now, said Jim McDonald, chief investment strategist at Northern Trust.

"People's sentiment is still

percent, to 17,814.94. The Nasdaq composite gained 3.36 points, or 0.1 percent, to 4,758.25.

Stocks started the day with small gains after a report showed that the U.S. economy grew at a solid 3.9 percent annual rate in the July-September period, faster than the 3.5 percent that was initially reported. The upward revision was due to higher estimates of spending by consumers and businesses, the Commerce Department said.

That positive report was tempered by news that U.S. consumer confidence fell in November. The Conference Board says its consumer confidence index fell to 88.7, down from a seven-year high of 94.5 in October. The decline primarily reflected less optimism in the short-term outlook as consumers expressed less confidence in current business conditions.

ports that the world's biggest producers are unwilling to cut production to help stop a slump in the price of crude. The sector dropped 1.6 percent and is now down 3.2 percent for the year. It's the only one of the 10 industry sectors in the S&P 500 that is down for the year. Oil started the day higher, but slid on reports that representatives from Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, Mexico and Russian state oil giant OAO Rosneft had failed on Tuesday to agree on any immediate plans to cut output. The oil producing nations were meeting ahead of OPEC's Thursday meeting. Benchmark U.S. crude fell \$1.69 to close at \$74.09 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils used by many U.S. refineries, fell \$1.35 to close at \$78.33 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange in London. □

More-confident households: Americans step up borrowing

C. S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) —

Americans are slowly but steadily borrowing more money, bringing to an end a five-year effort to cut household debt that has slowed consumer spending and the economy. Total household debt increased \$78 billion in the July-September quarter to \$11.7 trillion, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York said Tuesday. The increase was led by rising mortgage and auto loans. That is the fourth increase in household debt in the past five quarters. Total debt is still below the peak of nearly \$12.7 trillion reached in the third quarter of 2008. But it has risen 5 percent since bottoming out in the second quarter of last year.

The sustained increase is a sign that Americans are more confident and may be ready to spend more, trends that could fuel faster economic growth. Consumer spending has remained sluggish since the Great Recession ended in June 2009, held back by weak wage increases and by American households' focus on repairing their finances.

A measure of consumer confidence fell in November, the Conference Board said Tuesday, but only after reaching a seven-year high in October. Even with the decline, the Conference Board's consumer confidence index was 23 percent higher this month than 12 months earlier. As the recession intensified in 2008, consumers started paying off bloated debt levels, particularly credit card and mortgage debt, in a process economists refer to as "deleveraging." Household debt fell nearly every quarter for almost five years. Some of the decline occurred because consumers defaulted on debt, though the New York Fed said less borrowing and paying off debts played a greater

role.

Mortgage borrowing dropped 16 percent, from nearly \$9.3 trillion in the third quarter of 2008 to \$7.8 trillion in the second quarter of 2013. And credit card debt plummeted 23 percent from \$858 billion to \$659 billion in the first quarter of this year.

But those trends have largely turned around. Mortgage debt has rebounded to \$8.1 trillion and credit card debt has increased for two quarters to \$680 billion.

Auto loans, meanwhile, have jumped to a new peak of \$934 billion. "It appears that the deleveraging period has come to an end and households are borrowing more," said Wilbert van der Klaauw, an economist at the New York Fed.

New auto loans totaled \$105 billion in the July-September quarter, the most in nearly 10 years. Student loans have risen sharply during the recovery and reached a record high of \$1.13 trillion.

More borrowing has spurred concerns that consumers may overextend themselves again. So far, however, there are few signs that Americans are unable to keep up.

The number of new foreclosures fell in the third quarter to the lowest level since 1999. And the percentage of all loans that are 90 days or more overdue slipped to 4.3 percent from 4.5 percent in the second quarter.

The sharp rise in auto loans has raised fears among many federal banking regulators because much of the increase has been fueled by lending to risky borrowers. But the percentage of auto loans that were 90 days or more overdue fell to 3.1 percent from 3.3 percent.

Still, there are some signs of potential trouble. The percentage of delinquent student loans rose to 11.1 percent from 10.9 percent in the second quarter. □

American bank earnings up 7.3 percent in 3Q

KEN SWEET

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. bank earnings rose 7.3 percent in the July-September quarter from a year earlier, as banks reduced their expenses and continued to lend out more money, which help drive up revenue.

The data issued Tuesday by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. showed that the banking industry continues to recover from the financial crisis that struck six

years ago.

Banks and other financial institutions insured by the FDIC earned \$38.7 billion in the third quarter, up from \$36.1 billion a year ago. The percentage of unprofitable banks fell to 6.4 percent of institutions, versus 8.7 percent a year ago.

"The banking industry had another positive quarter," FDIC Chairman Martin J. Gruenberg said in a statement. "Community banks, in particular, performed

better than a year ago. Most importantly, third quarter income growth was based on revenue growth instead of lower loan-loss provisions. This can be a more sustainable foundation for continued earnings growth going forward."

Banks loan balances rose by \$50.2 billion to \$8.2 trillion in the quarter, helped by an increase in commercial and industrial loans as well as auto loans. Mortgage lending activity fell slightly.

However, overall lending is up 4.6 percent in the last year, a sign that banks are steadily loosening lending standards after the financial crisis.

With the improving picture, the FDIC still acknowledged some concerns about the banking industry. Banks have been increasingly lending money to higher risk businesses and have been extending loans for longer periods of time. Also the ongoing low inter-

est rate environment has made it difficult for banks to earn money on interest. "Nevertheless, third quarter results were largely good news for community banks and for the entire banking industry," Gruenberg said. The agency said the number of "problem banks" fell to 329 during the quarter, the lowest since the first quarter of 2009. Only two insured banks failed in the latest quarter versus six failed banks in the third quarter of 2013.

Home Depot faces dozens of breach-related lawsuits

TOM MURPHY

AP Business Writer

Home Depot faces at least 44 lawsuits in the United States and Canada over a massive data breach earlier this year that affected 56 million debit and credit cards.

The nation's biggest home improvement retailer said Tuesday in a regulatory filing that several state and federal agencies also are looking into the data breach and it may face more litigation from customers, banks, shareholders and others.

Home Depot said the litigation and the investigations may distract management and affect how it runs its business. It also could lead to additional costs and fines. But those expenses aren't clear yet because the cases are in early stages, the company said in a quarterly filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The company said earlier



Electrical contractor Tommy Hendrick unloads his purchases at a Home Depot store in Matthews, N.C. Home Depot faces at least 44 lawsuits in the United States and Canada over a massive data breach earlier this year that affected 56 million debit and credit cards.

(AP Photo/Chuck Burton)

this month after announcing third-quarter earnings that it anticipates a fourth-quarter breach-related expense of about \$27 million, but only about \$6 million af-

ter insurance.

Home Depot has a \$100 million insurance policy for breach-related expenses. That comes with a \$7.5 million deductible.

The Atlanta-based retailer disclosed the months-long breach of data in September. It has said that the hackers initially accessed its network in April with a third-

party vendor's username and password. Hackers then deployed malware on Home Depot's self-checkout systems to gain access to the card information of customers who shopped at its U.S. and Canadian stores between April and September.

Home Depot's breach surpassed Target's pre-Christmas 2013 data theft, which compromised 40 million credit and debit cards and hurt sales and profits. Since late last year, Michaels, SuperValu and Neiman Marcus have been among a string of retailers that have also reported breaches, though they were smaller. Home Depot has since said that hackers also stole 53 million email addresses.

The company said in its filing on Tuesday that it has since completed a major security improvement. Its new security scrambles raw card information to make it unreadable to unauthorized users.

US consumer confidence reverses in November

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. consumer confidence fell in November following a big gain the previous month, as Americans became less bullish about the economy and jobs.

The Conference Board said Tuesday that its consumer confidence index fell to 88.7 in November, down from a seven-year high of 94.5 in October.

Conference Board econo-

mist Lynn Franco said that the decline primarily reflected weaker optimism in the short-term, with consumers less upbeat about current business conditions and the state of the job market.

But she added that expectations about future income remained virtually unchanged.

Private economists expect a quick reversal of the November drop, especially given the large declines

motorists are seeing in gas prices.

A drop in gas prices acts like a tax cut, giving consumers more confidence and more money to spend on other items. The current nationwide average for a gallon of regular gas is \$2.81, down from \$3.07 just a month ago, according to AAA.

Paul Dales, an economist at Capital Economics, said the November decline in confidence was "hard to

square with the recent improvement in households' financial situations."

The proportion of consumers saying business conditions were good decreased from 24.7 percent to 24 percent, while those claiming business conditions were bad increased from 21.3 percent to 22.4 percent.

Even with the decline from October, consumer sentiment at 88.7 was still significantly higher than the 72.0

reading of November 2013. The steep recession, which claimed millions of jobs and made those still working fearful of further layoffs, pushed confidence down sharply for a number of years after the recession ended in June 2009. But steady hiring and fewer layoffs over the past 12 months have helped to boost morale. The unemployment rate dropped to 5.8 percent in November, the lowest level since 2008.

Mutts



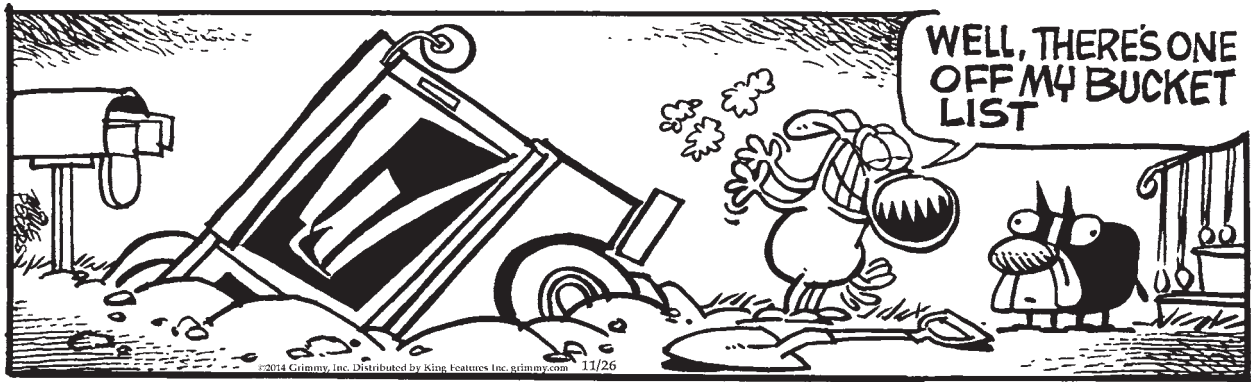
6 Chix



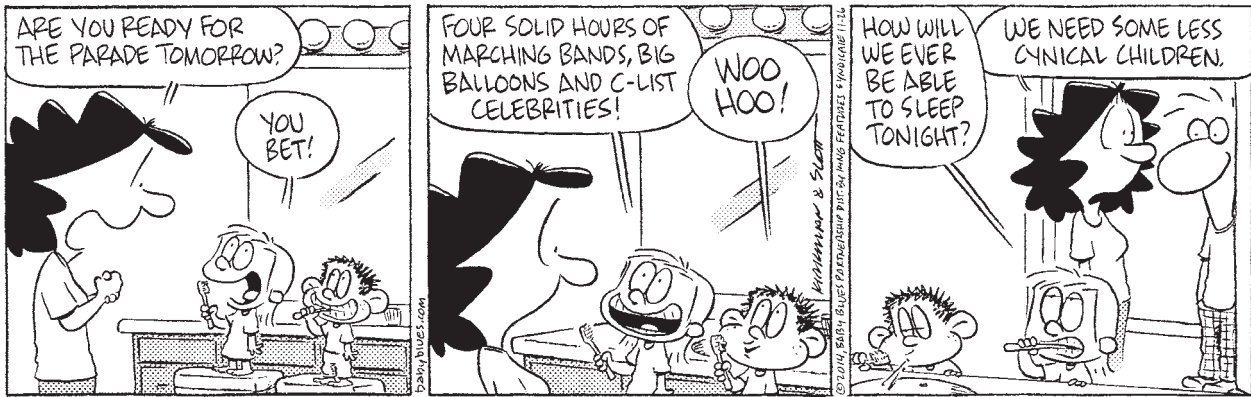
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		9	7	3	4	8		
	4						9	
5				1				6
7				8				4
3	1			7	6	5		9
8								1
9								7
	6			5			4	
		3	1	9	2	6		

Difficulty Level ★★★

11/26

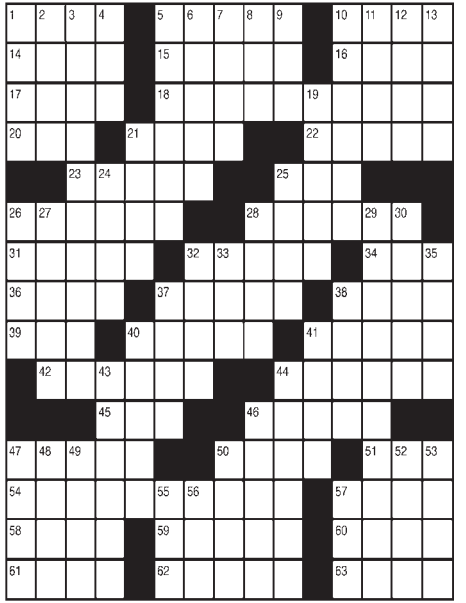
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	7	6	5	2	8	9	4	3
2	3	8	4	7	9	6	5	1
5	9	4	3	6	1	8	2	7
3	8	9	2	5	7	1	6	4
4	2	7	1	3	6	5	8	9
6	1	5	8	9	4	7	3	2
9	5	2	6	1	3	4	7	8
7	4	3	9	8	5	2	1	6
8	6	1	7	4	2	3	9	5

ACROSS

- 1 "Old MacDonald had a ..."
5 Parka features
10 Illegal way to make money
14 Take __; assume control
15 Bert's pal
16 Stockings
17 "Read my __!"
18 Pimlico and Santa Anita
20 Ike's initials
21 Powerful wind
22 Pile up
23 Cancels
25 Hurry
26 Loathing
28 Noon
31 Over 18
32 Nudges
34 Goller Trevino
36 "The __ Ranger"
37 Sphere of the world
38 Remain
39 One of the Seven Dwarfs
40 Messy folks
41 Task
42 __ up; joined forces
44 Rules
45 Lion's lair
46 Soothing ointment
47 Pago Pago, American __
50 Dr. __; TV psychologist
51 Actor Selleck
54 Unusual behavior
57 Sandusky, __
58 Hatfields or McCoy's
59 Irritate
60 Stein & Stiller
61 Mattel's boy dolls
62 Ceased
63 Annoys
- DOWN**
- 1 Make a crease
2 Very eager
3 Contrition
4 Sra. or Mme.
5 "Hark the Angels Sing"
6 Graduate exams, often
7 In the past
8 Perish
9 __ up; arrange
10 Humiliated
11 Comic actress Imogene __
12 Inquires
13 Disarray
19 Sudden attacks
21 Merriment
24 Strong desire
25 Conceal
26 __ on to; keep
27 Underway
28 Unruly crowds
29 As a group
30 __ for; desire
32 Trudge
33 Steal from
35 Peepers
37 Narrow valley
38 Prison knife
40 Make a smudge worse
41 Jailbird's room
43 Decorates
44 __ cats and dogs; poured
46 Push forcefully
47 Paper bag
48 Qualified
49 Cruel
50 "The __ Piper of Hamelin"
52 Cry from a sty
53 Playwright Hart
55 Mimic
56 Smallest two-digit number
57 __-Wan Kenobi



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/26/14

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

LARGE	SPIN	MOPE
ABOUT	HARE	OVER
PLATE	ODES	LEAR
SENTRIES	TRANCE	
ENDS	BLESSED	
AMORAL	FEEDS	
LEG	LEGAL	SEEKS
MARS	RADIO	SANE
STEAL	TEENS	TEN
MOVED	SASSED	
STOOGES	VEST	
PRAYER	POTHOLES	
LURE	SARI	AKITA
ICED	USED	YENTL
TEDS	SAYS	SRTAS

©2014 Tribune Content Agency, LLC
All Rights Reserved.

11/26/14

Ukraine

Continued from Page 10

The brunt of the rage, however, is still directed at the Ukrainian government.

"Ukraine says Donetsk is Ukrainian territory, and yet they came here with tanks and weapons instead of paying pensions properly," said Donetsk retiree Anatoly Visly. "I am a disabled veteran and I haven't received my pension for three months."

Many pensioners have re-registered in towns outside rebel zones, meaning pay-

ments have still accrued to their accounts. The challenge for those people will now become making the monthly trip to banks in government-controlled areas, which can be costly and difficult, especially for the most infirm.

Prospects for the rebels to set up a welfare system any time soon are bleak. Anna Kharzhevskaya, an official with the rebel social affairs and labor ministry, said separatist authorities have only a crude notion of how many people are eligible for social payments. □

Tel: 582-0697 / 583-7484

Schotland str. 70

Email: quality@setarnet.aw

Website: www.arubaqualityapartments.com

Extend your stay at
Quality Apartments

*Studio & Loft Apts.

*Fully Furnished

*Kitchen / Airco / Cable TV

*Swimming Pool

Less than 1 mile from Eagle Beach & 4 large supermarkets.

Feel free to contact or visit us.

Mon - Fri: 8am-7pm. Sat & Sun: 9am-5pm.



FOR SALE



Las Palmas 31-B

Luxury ground floor corner unit with 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms. Very nice golf views. This gated Golf community, Tierra del Sol has all facilities that you can wish for. Centrally air conditioned living room, dining room, luxury kitchen with stainless steel appliances, many cabinets & breakfast bar.

US \$ 499.500,-



Aruba Real Estate
Independently Owned and Operated

Palm Beach 4-G

Tel.: 586 4242

www.arubahouses.com

Concierge Realty



Marriott Aruba Surf Club

PLATINUM Season

Oceanview \$16k

Oceanside \$17500

Oceanfront \$27,500

3 BEDRM OV \$27k

Plat. Plus Holiday 51 OV \$46k

Plat. Plus NY 52 OV \$49k

GOLD Season

Oceanside \$9900

Oceanview \$9k

Oceanfront \$14.500k

3 BEDRM OV \$17k

Marriott Aruba Ocean club

GOLD Season

2B Ocean view \$9k

2B Oceanfront \$14500

1B Oceanfront \$8500

PLATINUM Season

2B oceanview \$18500

2B Oceanfront \$29k

1B Oceanview \$11500

**Destination points

available between \$6.5 and \$7.5 per point.

**We are the #1
Rental Timeshare
agent for Aruba!**

We also RENT Aruba weeks for owners. Contact us to BUY, SELL or RENT any timeshare property.

888-888-2204 Ext 111

321-206-6293 Ext 111

321-250-7164 Fax

FaxWebsite:
www.concierge Realty.com

Classifieds

TIMESHARE FOR SALE

RENAISSANCE (one bedroom)

Week room price

23 343 \$4200

27 103 \$3750

30 515 \$4600

37 332 \$2000

42 103 \$6000

15 327 \$6500

37/38 548 \$5750

19 547 \$5000

LA CABANA

Week 47 room 237B \$1.500

PARADISE BEACH VILLAS

Week 29 room 129, 2 bedroom \$5.500

Contact Brian Cell: 593-0200

vr.realty@mac.com

202887

TIMESHARE

FOR SALE/RENT

Casa del Mar

week 29, one bedroom, unit 1326, July 18th, rent : \$725, sell:\$2300 (+MF)

La Cabana week 49,

one bedroom, ground floor, unit 105C Dec 5th, rent:\$725, sell: \$2950 (+MF)

call 565-9394 till Nov 15

e-mail rmwjmaw@aol.com or

US 508 651 0016

202894

TIMESHARE

FOR SALE/RENT

La Cabana Christmas

week 52, Dec. 19-26, one br \$895 & week 49 Dec. 5-12 rm 105C ground fl, 1 br \$625 also for sale 2995, ocean views, steps to pool

e-mail rmwjmaw@aol.com or

US 508 651 0016

202894



DOCTOR ON DUTY Oranjestad



Dr. Gonzalez

EMERGENCIA 911



POLIS	100
POLIS	581-1100
ORANJESTAD	582-4000
NOORD	587-0009
STA. CRUZ	585-4710
SAVANETA	584-7000
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
FIRE DEPT.	115
FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
POLIS TIPLINE	11141
HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	584-5050

PHARMACY

Oranjestad: Sta. Cruz Tel: 585-8028

San Nicolas: Seroe Preto Tel: 584-4833

INFORMATION	118
SETAR	582-2116
TAXI	582-5900
TAXI-TAS	587-5900
PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

CRUISESHIP



November 26

Freewinds

Celebrity Eclipse

Aruba Airport	524-2424
American Airline	582-2700
Avianca	588-0059
Dutch Antilles	588-1900
Insel Air	588-9314
Jet Blue	588-2244
Spirit Airlines	582-7117
Tiara Air	588-4272
Venezolana	583-7674

FOUNDATION

FELLOWSHIP CLINIC

Tel: 584-6440

Alcoholism & Drug Addiction, Anonymity guaranteed

FUNDACION

Anti-Droga

Aruba

(FADA) Tel: 583-2999

FUNDACION

Respetami

Tel: 582-4433

Diabetic Foundation

Arubano

Tel: 583-3808

Narcotics Anonymous

Tel: 583-8989

Foundation Amor

pa Prohimo

Tel: 583-3345 /586-6976

Women in Difficulties

Foundation

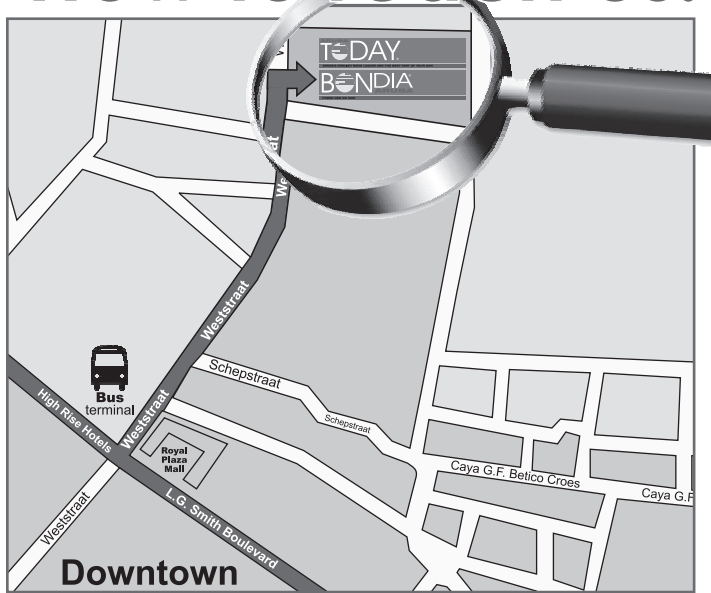
Tel: 583-5400

Bloodbank Aruba

Tel: 587-0002

TODAY BONDIA

How to reach us!





Study reveals how much people understand Internet

ANNE FLAHERTY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Internet generation doesn't actually know much about how it works. A new Pew Research Center survey released Tuesday found most people can recognize Microsoft founder Bill Gates and know that hashtags belong in tweets, but are confused about whether having a privacy policy means that a company actually keeps consumer information confidential. The results underscore what many techies say is a growing problem for the U.S.: a generation reliant on the convenience that technology brings, but with little understanding of the risks of conducting nearly every transaction digitally. Aaron Smith, senior researcher at Pew and author of the report, said he thought it would be interesting for policy makers and tech designers to find what knowledge gaps existed in modern life. "Just because people use



In this March 13, 2014 file photo, Bill Gates participates in a media availability on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

these gadgets a lot doesn't necessarily mean they know everything about how they work and where they came from," he said.

The 17-question quiz is available online at www.pewinternet.org/quiz/web-iq-quiz/. Not surprisingly, people un-

der 30 seemed to do better on some of the questions than older Internet users, such as knowing what a "Wiki" or "captcha" is. But

young or old, only about 6 in 10 Internet users understood that "net neutrality" refers to the equal treatment of digital content by service providers. The Federal Communications Commission is considering whether it should regulate the broadband industry more aggressively to prevent providers from playing favorites among content sites like Google, YouTube, Amazon or Netflix.

Another area where age didn't seem to matter was the false assumption that the existence of a privacy policy means that a company keeps the data it collects on consumers confidential. More than half — 52 percent — of Internet users thought that was the case, whereas privacy policies often explain that a company reserves the right to sell a person's information to advertisers or other third parties.

Three-fourths of people surveyed thought the "Internet" was the same thing as the "World Wide Web." □

Space station's 3-D printer pops out 1st creation

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The first 3-D printer in space has popped out its first creation.

The 3-D printer delivered to the International Space Station two months ago made a sample replacement part for itself this week. It churned out a new faceplate for the print head casing. Space station commander Butch Wilmore removed the small plastic creation from the printer Tuesday, a day after its manufacture.

Some of the plastic piece stuck to the print tray, said NASA spokesman Dan Huot. He noted it's part of the learning process and

will be further investigated. About 20 objects will be printed in the next few weeks, all for return to Earth for analysis, NASA said. The space agency hopes to one day use 3-D printing to make parts for broken equipment in space — "an on-demand machine shop," according to project manager Niki Werkheiser.

Made in Space, the Northern California company that supplied the space station's 3-D printer, called it "a transformative moment." The newly created, rectangular faceplate — considered functional by the company — includes



In this undated photo provided by NASA, International Space Station Commander Barry "Butch" Wilmore holds up the first object made in space with additive manufacturing or 3-D printing.

the Made in Space name, as well as NASA's.

"When the first human

fashioned a tool from a rock, it couldn't have been conceived that one day

we'd be replicating the same fundamental idea in space." □

Happy Hour at BUGALOE

TODAY: 5-6pm & 10-11pm

SPECIAL PRICES ON Mojito
and local beers: Balashi & Chill



Located at De Palm Pier
between the Radisson Resort and Riu Hotel



Live Happy Hour Entertainment



T: (+297) 587 2233 | Info@Bugaloe.com
www.Bugaloe.com

Cumberbatch decodes Turing in 'Imitation Game'

JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

TORONTO (AP) — With characters like Sherlock Holmes, Julian Assange and Stephen Hawking, Benedict Cumberbatch has accumulated a filmography littered with high IQs. Characters of analytical prowess and fast-deducting intellect have made Cumberbatch something like the ultimate quicksilver mind of the digital age. No actor has made computation sexier. Cumberbatch, relaxing in a Toronto hotel room, quickly points out that he has — like his spineless plantation owner of "12 Years a Slave" or his painfully shy son in "August: Osage County" — played some "pretty dull, ordinary" people: "Let's say us. I've done us, version of me and you," he says.

And yet Cumberbatch is clearly drawn to highly complex, real-life characters under extraordinary circumstances — roles that demand technical preparation (an accent, a stammer), considerable biographical research and a precision of approach. Puzzles to be solved.

"Maybe that's a fair one," he says, turning over the idea. "Maybe I do. I think for the reasons people are attracted to those characters, as well. You can never fully understand them. There's always a certain amount of enigma or mystery to them."

Cumberbatch's latest riddle is Alan Turing, a hugely important figure to World War II code-breaking and a computer science pioneer. "The Imitation Game," which opens in select theaters Friday, is about how Turing and others at Britain's Bletchley Park solved the seemingly unbreakable Enigma code

used by the Germans throughout WWII. Winston Churchill said Turing made the single greatest contribution to the war, but his achievement wasn't widely recognized until recently, when the code-breaker's work was declassified.

"Considering all of that, why the (expletive) isn't he on the front cover of every school history textbook?" says Cumberbatch. "He's a properly important figure in our culture."

"The Imitation Game" is only partly a traditional wartime thriller. It's also a tragedy of social close-mindedness. Turing was gay at a time when homosexuality was illegal in Britain. He was convicted of indecency in 1952 and then chemically castrated. Two years later, just 41, he killed himself by eating a cyanide-laced apple (though there remains some debate about his intentions).

"I see somebody who was tragically damaged and continually battered by an intolerant, non-understanding world — the very world he was trying to save and liberate from fascism," says Cumberbatch.

"The Imitation Game," directed by Norwegian filmmaker Morten Tyldum and written by Graham Moore, is a kind of ode to outsiders. Cumberbatch's Turing isn't just different because of his sexuality, he's utterly anti-social. Rarely making eye contact, etiquette disinterested the single-minded Turing. "I don't care what's normal," he says in the movie.

His Bletchley collaborators also included Joan Clarke (Keira Knightley), a rare female in that world. Knightley says the film "is about trying to celebrate differences because of the trag-



In this Sept. 8, 2013 file photo, actor Benedict Cumberbatch poses for a portrait during the 2013 Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto. Cumberbatch stars as Alan Turing, a World War II code breaker in "The Imitation Game." Associated Press

edies that can occur when you destroy the people who aren't like you."

The film's mix of historical drama with contemporary resonance has won it acclaim on the festival

circuit and positioned it as an Oscar contender. Especially lauded has been Cumberbatch's depiction of a mathematical mind wracked by repression.

"He can play so many

emotions at the same time. There's strength and vulnerability. There's arrogance and there's this lonely boy," says Tyldum. "It's not every actor that can play a genius." □

Orchid Casino

Located at RIU Antillas formerly Westin Resort • Phone: 525-7772

OPEN 24 HOURS

Table Games Open at 12:00 noon

Race & Sportsbook

NO TAX ON WINNINGS

- 3-4-5 times odds on craps
- Poker Room
- Baccarat

Nightly Live Entertainment



This June 27, 2014 file photo shows actor Shia LaBeouf walks through the media after leaving Midtown Community Court following his arrest the previous day for yelling obscenities at the Broadway show "Cabaret," in New York.

Associated Press

Shia LaBeouf making progress on treatment

NEW YORK (AP) — Actor Shia LaBeouf (SHY'-uh luh-BUF') is complying with treatment ordered as part of a plea deal stemming from a bizarre episode during the Broadway show "Cabaret." The 28-year-old "Transformers" star appeared in a Manhattan court Tuesday to show proof that he's been at the Hills Treatment Center in Los Angeles. Attorney G. Robert Gage says his client has done a "terrific job" complying.

LaBeouf is due back in court March 20.

While attending the June 24 performance, LaBeouf smoked cigarettes, yelled at the actors, swore at security guards and hollered as he was escorted out.

If he stays in treatment for at least three months and out of trouble for six months, he'll be allowed to withdraw the guilty plea and the case will be dismissed.

New Tina Fey-created sitcom headed to Netflix

NEW YORK (AP) — Netflix has picked up two seasons of a new sitcom from Tina Fey.

Titled "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt," it focuses on a woman who escapes from a doomsday cult and starts life over in New York. It was co-created by Fey and Robert Carlock, who collaborated on "30 Rock."

It stars Ellie Kemper of "The Office." Fey isn't scheduled to appear in the series.

Netflix says the 13-episode first season will premiere in March.

The series had originally been bound for NBC, but that network passed. Uni-



In this Thursday, Nov. 20, 2014, file photo, Tina Fey attends the American Museum of Natural History's 2014 Museum Gala, in New York.

Associated Press

versal Television, NBC's corporate sibling, will remain the show's producer.



In this image released by Fox Searchlight Pictures, Michael Keaton portrays Riggan in a scene from "Birdman."

Associated Press

'Birdman' leads Spirit Awards nominations

LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Birdman," a dark comedy about show business, took flight Tuesday with a leading six nominations for the 30th Film Independent Spirit Awards.

Star Michael Keaton and director Alejandro González Iñárritu picked up nominations for the film from Fox Searchlight.

Nods also went to its supporting actors Emma Stone and Edward Norton and to cinematographer Emmanuel Lubezki.

Collecting five nominations each were the coming-of-age drama "Boyhood," the Martin Luther King Jr. biopic "Selma," and the noir thriller "Nightcrawler."

Other films recognized in the best feature category included "Whiplash" and "Love is Strange," both of which received four nominations.

Rosario Dawson and Diego Luna announced the nominees live from the W Hotel in Hollywood. The awards recognize achievements in independent film, and Oscar hopefuls are sprinkled throughout each category. Nods in the male lead cat-

egory went to David Oyelowo for his portrayal of Martin Luther King Jr. in "Selma;" Jake Gyllenhaal for his turn as a sociopathic freelance reporter in "Nightcrawler;" John Lithgow for "Love is Strange;" and André Benjamin for "Jimi: All Is By My Side."

Female lead nominations included Julianne Moore for her role as an Alzheimer's patient in "Still Alice;" Marion Cotillard for the turn of the century drama "The Immigrant;" Tilda Swinton for the vampire pic "Only Lovers Left Alive;" Jenny Slate for the abortion comedy "Obvious Child;" and Rinko Kikuchi for "Kumiko, The Treasure Hunter."

In addition to Iñárritu, directing nominations went to Ava DuVernay ("Selma"), Damien Chazelle ("Whiplash"), Richard Linklater ("Boyhood") and David Zellner ("Kumiko, The Treasure Hunter").

Film Independent also honored "Foxcatcher" with its Special Distinction Award and "Inherent Vice" with the Robert Altman Award. For unspecified reasons, neither film was eligible for individual nominations.

The Spirit Awards tries to

recognize films outside the mainstream, but recent winners have tended to overlap with Academy Awards nominees.

Last year, the Spirit Awards winners matched the Academy Awards winners in several top categories, including best picture ("12 Years a Slave"), best actor (Matthew McConaughey for "Dallas Buyers Club"), and best actress (Cate Blanchett for "Blue Jasmine").

Winners will be revealed at an awards ceremony on Feb. 21, 2015, a day before the Academy Awards. The Spirit Awards ceremony will air live from Santa Monica. This year's 341 submissions were judged on such guidelines as uniqueness of vision, originality of subject matter, economy of means, and percentage of financing from independent sources. Only films with a budget of \$20 million or lower are considered.

Nominations are decided by members of Film Independent, which include critics, filmmakers, actors, festival programmers, past winners and nominees, and members of Film Independent's board of directors.

America's Broken Politics



NICHOLAS KRISTOF
© 2014 New York Times

Let's face it: The American political system is broken. The midterm elections were a stinging repudiation of President Barack Obama, but Republicans should also feel chastened: A poll last year found Congress less popular than cockroaches. So congratulations to those members celebrating election victories. But our democratic institutions are in trouble when they can't outpoll cockroaches. Which didn't even campaign. "Politics is the noblest of professions," President Dwight D. Eisenhower said in 1954, and politics in the past often seemed a bright path toward improving our country. President Bill Clinton represented a generation that regarded politics as a tool to craft a better world, and Obama himself mobilized young voters with his gauzy message of hope. He presented himself as the politician who could break Washington's gridlock and get things done - and we've seen how well that worked.

I'm in the middle of a book tour now, visiting universities and hearing students speak about yearning to make a difference. But they are turning not to politics as their lever but to social enterprise, to nonprofits, to advocacy, to business. They see that Wendy Kopp, who founded Teach for America in her dorm room at Princeton University, has had more impact on the education system than any current senator, and many have given up on political paths to change.

A national exit poll conducted by Edison Research found that a majority of voters disapproved of Republicans and Democrats alike, and only 20 percent trust Washington to do what's right most or all the time.

Obama is licking his wounds in the White House, and he doesn't seem to accept that the election is a judgment on his presidency. I'm sorry. When Democrats lose in Colorado and struggle in Virginia, when voters say they're sending a message to the White House, it's time for Obama to shake up his staff, reach out beyond his insular circle of longtime aides, and recalibrate.

Critics are right that the president should try harder to schmooze with legislators, although I'm skeptical that Republicans are that charmable. After all, some polls have shown more than a third in the Republican Party said he was born abroad and about one-fifth suspected that

he could be the Antichrist.

Yet it's not just Obama who is looking ragged today. The entire political system is. Political scientists Nolan McCarty, Keith Poole and Howard Rosenthal have charted the attitudes of the political parties back to 1879, and they found party polarization in recent years to be greater than at any time since their charts began.

That's partly because Democrats have become more liberal, but mostly because Republicans have become more conservative - indeed, more conservative than at any time since 1879.

Politicians have also figured out what works for their own careers: playing to their base, denouncing the other side, and blocking rivals from getting credit for anything. Since many politicians are more vulnerable in a primary than in a general election, there's not much incentive for compromise.

After Obama took office, Republicans assiduously tried to block him, even shutting down the federal government. Republican governors prevented their own citizens from getting health insurance through federally financed Medicaid. I see that as obstructionism, but it paid off in these midterms.

Bravo to Obama's comments Wednesday about trying to cooperate with Republicans on issues including early education. But I'm not holding my breath. Incentives today militate against bipartisan cooperation, and that's one reason the current Congress is on track to be the least productive in the post-World War II era.

(Maybe we taxpayers could save money by paying members of Congress not by salary but by the piece, so much for each enacted law?)

One bright spot in the midterms was voter referendums. They did actually break the gridlock. Oregon, Alaska and the District of Columbia legalized marijuana in some situations. Five states supported an increase in the minimum wage. Washington state approved universal background checks for gun purchases. California reduced prison sentences. So even if politicians are stalemated, voters managed to get things done. Yet we also get the national government we deserve, and that's an indictment of all of us.

I find America's political dysfunction particularly sad because I've spent much of my journalistic career covering people risking their lives for democracy, and sometimes dying for it - from Taiwan to Ukraine, Congo to South Korea. It was 25 years ago that I saw people massacred near Tiananmen Square for demanding political change. They risked their lives because they dreamed that democracy would improve their lives and give them greater freedom and dignity.

For those of us in the United States it was easy. We painlessly inherited democracy, yet I'm afraid we've botched it. □



Campaign 101: Death by Data



DAVID BROOKS
© 2014 New York Times

Over the past decade or so, political campaigns have become more scientific. Campaign consultants use sophisticated data to micro-target specific demographic slices. Consultants select their ad buys more precisely because they know which political niche is watching which TV show. Campaigns trial test messages that push psychological buttons. Discussion around politics has also become more data driven. Opinion writers look at demographic trends and argue over whether there is an emerging Democratic majority. Pundits like me study the polling cross tabs, trying to figure out which way Asian-Americans are trending here and high-school-educated white women are trending there. Unfortunately, the whole thing has been a fiasco. As politics has gotten more scientific, the campaigns have gotten worse, especially for the candidates who overrely on these techniques.

That's because the data-driven style of politics is built on a questionable philosophy and a set of dubious assumptions. Data-driven politics is built on a philosophy you might call Impersonalism. This is the belief that what matters in politics is the reaction of populations and not the idiosyncratic judgment, moral character or creativity of individuals.

Data-driven politics assumes that demography is destiny, that the electorate is not best seen as a group of freethinking citizens but as a collection of demographic

slices. This method assumes that mobilization is more important than persuasion; that it is more important to target your likely supporters than to try to reframe debates or persuade the whole country.

This method puts the spotlight on the reactions of voting blocs and takes the spotlight off the individual qualities of candidates. It puts the spotlight on messaging and takes the spotlight off product: actual policies. It puts the spotlight on slight differences across the socio-economic spectrum and takes the spotlight off the power of events to reframe the whole mood and landscape. This analytic method encourages candidates across the country to embrace the same tested, cookie-cutter messages.

Candidates who have overrelied on these techniques have been hurt by them. One victim was Mitt Romney, who ran for president not as himself, but as a thin slice of himself. Another victim was President Barack Obama. His 2012 campaign was legendary from an analytic point of view, and, of course, it was victorious. But it lacked a policy agenda and produced no mandate. Without a compelling agenda, the administration has projected an image of reactive drift and lost public confidence.

This year, the most notorious victim of demographic politics is Sen. Mark Udall of Colorado. He's tried to win the female votes as if all women cared about were "women's" issues. The Denver Post's editorial board wrote that he's run an "obnoxious one-issue campaign," which is in a dead heat.

The other victims include the Democratic senators in red states. Winning in a state that the other party dominates is a personal enterprise. It requires an ineffable individual connection with voters. It requires an idiosyncratic approach to issues. By eclipsing individual quirks with generic messages, the data-driven style deprives outnumbered candidates of precisely what they need to

survive. Alison Lundergan Grimes, a Democrat, could have made a real run at Sen. Mitch McConnell in Kentucky if she'd been a little more creative.

Of course, data sets are important. Obviously demography matters a lot. But, at heart, politics is a personal enterprise. Voters are looking for quality of leadership, character, vision and solidarity that defies quantification. Candidates like Daniel Patrick Moynihan or Jerry Brown can arouse great loyalty in ways that are impossible to predict.

In the midst of this scuffling economy, voters are thinking as Americans and not as members of a niche. They're asking: What can be done to kick-start America? They're not asking: How can I guarantee affordable contraception? People who are building campaigns on microtargeting are simply operating on the wrong level of consciousness.

The more you look at political history, the more you see that political imagination is the rarest and most valuable of qualities. Voters don't always know what they want, but they look to leaders to jump ahead of the current moment and provide visions they haven't thought of.

Some politicians, like FDR or Ronald Reagan, can reframe debates and envision coalitions that don't exist. Their visions emerge out of unique life experiences, which are unusual but have broad appeal. They build trust not through a few targeted messages but by fully embodying a moment and a people. They often don't pander to existing identities but arouse different identities.

Today we have a lot of technical innovation, but not a lot of political creativity. The ecosystem no longer produces as much entrepreneurship - mutations that fuel evolution.

Data-driven candidates sacrifice their own souls. Instead of being inner-directed leaders driven by their own beliefs, they become outer-directed pleasers driven by incomplete numbers. □

Unboxing videos online chronicle the big reveal

LEANNE ITALIE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Rrrrip goes the packing tape and squeak goes the protective foam. Are there sweeter, more seductive sounds than the opening of a new toy or gadget? Not to unboxers and the millions of people who watch their videos on YouTube.

For the uninitiated, unbox-

viewers young and older soak up advertising dollars through the unboxing of swag provided them by the makers of stuff.

With the mega-gift holidays nearly upon us and the start of the crazed shopping season, unboxing videos are more popular than ever. So says YouTube, which estimated 57 percent more views this year over last. While not the most popular

views, and uploads grew by 50 percent over last year. They're most watched during the holiday season, with 34 percent of views for products related to food, electronics, toys and beauty-fashion between October and December last year.

"They're definitely integral to the way I buy things," said 20-year-old Willy James, a fan in Pittsburgh

his video — there's shipping and product packaging — to 18 minutes and 50 seconds.

He took his mindful time to combine the experience with that of another YouTube phenom, ASMR, the video-sharing shorthand for the controversial autonomous sensory meridian response. It's a specific tingling in the body that cult followers believe is brought

moment, said Matt McLernon, a Google spokesman. "It's one of the larger trends on YouTube," he said. "You can unbox a cellphone, a vinyl record, a Happy Meal. It's not just over-the-top consumerism as much as it's feeling this connection with the thing that you're watching."

Like most phenoms, unboxing videos have spawned a backlash.

"It even comes with an extra long twisty tie," jokes one tongue-in-cheek parody video, complete with magical music. Posted in 2011, it has earned several thousand comments both pro and con on unboxing. Lewis Hilsenteger, 29, in Toronto is the open-faced Everyman on the popular Unbox Therapy channel, which has more than 1.6 million subscribers. He said he was motivated to "go pro" on unboxing nearly four years ago after becoming a fan of such videos.

Primarily tech-focused, his regularly posted videos on the channel have surpassed 211 million views, including a huge bump when he showed himself bending an iPhone 6 plus with his bare hands.

Before he hit it large on YouTube, the art school grad had a downtown shop where he repaired computers and mobile phones. "If I'm not into it, there's no video. I have to be excited about it," Hilsenteger said, describing his audience as largely male between 18 and 40.

And then there was that time in March when he and his adorable son, who was 4 at the time, unboxed a giant Gummy Bear, with each chomping on an ear. He sees the popularity of unboxing thusly:

"The unboxing video sort of fits in between what a brand wants you to know about a product and what it will feel like for you to have it," Hilsenteger said. "That's what I like about it. It's my reaction, which is impossible to fake." □



Lewis Hilsenteger of Toronto unboxes the recently released Far Cry 4 Kyrat Edition video game set. Hilsenteger is the founder of Unbox Therapy, where he unveils a wide range of tech and other products on YouTube. Unboxing, the recording and sharing of the big reveal, has become a phenomenon on the video-sharing site.

(AP Photo/Courtesy of Lewis Hilsenteger)

ing is the recording and sharing of the big reveal, whether it's Dad behind the camera on Christmas Day or a geek reviewer fawning for his tech-specific fans.

The phenom covers everything from Happy Meals to gaming consoles, usually in minute detail accompanied by either great goofiness or hardcore earnestness — or both.

Unboxing videos leave toddlers wide-eyed by the surprises inside chocolate eggs cracked open by disembodied hands. Eager consumers watch the plastic wrap come off plug-ins and cables. Product re-

activity on the site, unboxing is up there and has enjoyed steady growth since such videos first surfaced, believed to be in 2006.

Their allure has not been lost on brands looking to sell, sell, sell on social media. One in five consumers in a recent survey done by Google, which owns YouTube, said they've watched at least one unboxing video. As of mid-November, there were more than 20 million search results on YouTube for the keyword "unboxing."

Google estimates that all these unboxing videos have more than a billion

of MKBHD (aka Marques Brownlee), one of the top tech unboxers with nearly 2 million YouTube subscribers. "They're therapeutic. My favorite is when they're doing the tablet reviews and they peel off the layer of plastic film on the glass. I check the unboxing videos before I check an actual company website," he added. Is unboxing consumerism run amok? There's that, for some, but focused on the feels.

"I'm doing this in spite of a great urgency within myself to rip this box open and get to my iPhone," declares one unboxer who stretched

on by whispering and certain sounds shared in videos also intended to help people fall asleep.

"I wonder if the box sounds any different now that it's empty?" muses our soft-spoken sharer, with only his hands present on screen as he presses lightly on the tape-fringed flaps of his cardboard shipping box to create a scrape-crunch.

You've got your full-time unboxers in search of a living, your companies looking to cash in and some professional comics looking for a laugh, but you've also got your random folk who want to freeze that special